

serving sentences in Chinese prisons—although the real number is likely much higher.

And the Chinese government continues to claim the prerogative to decide who will succeed His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism, who is now 82 years old.

This extreme Chinese interference in the physical and spiritual lives of Tibetans occurs even though the Tibetans seek only to fully exercise the autonomy guaranteed them by the Chinese constitution and China's "Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy." In the late 1980s the Dalai Lama proposed the Middle Way Approach as a path toward Tibetan autonomy within China, and he has pursued that path through non-violence ever since.

Then there are the Uyghurs. Like the Tibetans, the Uyghurs are the victims of restrictions imposed by the Chinese authorities on their religious, cultural and linguistic practices.

The repression of Uyghurs has increased since July 2009, when a police attack on Uyghur demonstrators led to rioting and nearly 200 deaths. Between 2013 and 2015, clashes involving Uyghurs and Xinjiang public security personnel led to hundreds more deaths.

In the aftermath of these kinds of fatal encounters, the Chinese authorities have claimed the Uyghurs were carrying out or preparing to launch attacks against government property or civilians. But credible human rights groups argue that many violent incidents began as peaceful protests—again, a form of loyal opposition.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch has reported that Chinese authorities in Xinjiang are collecting DNA samples, fingerprints, iris scans, and blood types of all residents in the region between the age of 12 and 65.

For what purpose? Are we witnessing steps toward some kind of ethnicity-based attack on the whole of the Uyghur people?

And there have been alarming reports regarding the detention and possible mistreatment of some family members of U.S.-based Uyghur rights activist Rebiya Kadeer, feared to be in retribution for her human rights advocacy efforts. This could be another instance of China's efforts to silence criticism through intimidation, detention, and threats to the families of activists living abroad.

Unfortunately, I could go on and on.

But I want to close with recommendations.

I am guided by two principles. We as Americans must defend human rights and democracy, values that have made us a great nation. And there must be consequences for bad behaviour.

But as Chinese authorities consistently work to undermine democratic participation within its borders and violate the human rights of their peoples, I do not see any consequences. It is time to impose some.

I urge us to start by passing two pieces of legislation on Tibet that have been introduced in the House: H.R. 1872, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, and H. Con. Res. 89, expressing the sense of Congress that the treatment of the Tibetan people should be an important factor in the conduct of United States relations with the People's Republic of China.

I urge the full and robust implementation of the Tibet Policy Act of 2002—including the designation of the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Policy, a statutory position that the Administration has yet to fill.

I urge the robust use of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to

sanction Chinese officials responsible for grave violations of the human rights of Tibetans, Uyghurs, and the many other loyal opposition activists who have been targeted in recent years—human rights lawyers, religious practitioners, writers, artists.

I urge a united expression of support from this House for the release of Liu Xia. She should be allowed to leave China.

I urge this House to support the right of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to return to his homeland.

I urge the U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong to speak out loudly and forcefully on behalf of Joshua Wong, Nathan Law and other pro-democracy advocates in Hong Kong. We must hold China strictly accountable for the terms of the 1997 transfer of sovereignty.

These steps may not be enough to turn back China's increasing authoritarianism. But they would be a start.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORTH STATE ICON MORISS TAYLOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) is recognized for 5 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me some of his time. I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, tonight it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to a man who passed recently in the north State, an icon. Moriss Taylor passed last week at the age of 93. He was a cowboy singer and a local legend.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know House rules require that you wear a jacket and wear a tie and it is not allowed to wear hats on the floor, so I respect that, but I will do what I can, in the spirit of Moriss Taylor, to wear the type of clothing typically you would see on his show with this Western shirt. Of course, his were much fancier than this one I am wearing here tonight in what I think is known in Nashville as the nudie jacket style, where it is very, very well decorated with rhinestones and shiny objects like that.

And so you see the gentleman right here. I mean, how can you not like that and feel at home with someone like that?

Moriss was born in Miami, Oklahoma in 1925, and at age 14 he settled in southern Butte County, in Palermo, California.

Of course, his "Moriss Taylor Show," he was the beloved host of that from 1956 to 1995 on KHSL-TV, Channel 12, from Chico, California.

□ 2100

He had an incredible 39-year run of entertaining folks each weekend. His show was a soothing blend of relaxing country western music and original music performed by himself and his many talented guests.

Many of the members of his band were people you would see just right

around Butte County in northern California that worked during the week in places that anybody would likely patronize. I have seen his band members at auto parts stores where I shop, or at the feed store where I shop over time, and many others like that. They were just regular folks in the community who were blending their talents with Moriss Taylor on the weekend and other venues around northern California.

As kids, we used to watch the show on the weekends and we grew up listening to the country music staples on his show as well as the jokes. Some might say they were corny jokes, but they were also clean jokes and something you can just have a little chuckle over and enjoy.

But they indeed were a staple, along with the country music in their own right. So, for example, I have got to share a couple of them.

One of his jokes would be: "They say dogs make great chiropractors because they know where all the bones are."

Or, "Did you hear the one about the dentist who married the manicurist? They have been fighting tooth and nail ever since."

See what I mean?

They might make you groan a little bit, but they do make you smile, and they sure make you think of a different time when things were just a little simpler, a little more respectful, and innocent.

Moriss also hosted a weekly radio show from the 1940s until his retirement. Indeed, the show brought tremendous happiness to many people in northern California. What is not maybe as well known about Moriss is that he was also a decorated veteran of World War II, where he flew in a cargo plane between India and China. He went on to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross, which is second only in prestige to the Medal of Honor.

Again, being an Oklahoman, he moved to northern California, where he quickly became a local icon in our community. He was well loved and a great patriot.

One time, in a personal experience, I was out campaigning, going door to door, this time in Chico, California, and I happened upon his door. He opened it up, and I hadn't really looked at the walk sheet too closely at that point. It was night, so there he was, Moriss Taylor at the door. So I was kind of taken aback because here is the local legend.

He invited me right in and we sat down for a little bit, and he told me a little bit about his politics there and that he was a participant as well. It didn't come out in the show, and probably good and respectfully so. But he said: "You know, Doug, you are all right and I support you. You are doing a good job," which means a lot from a guy like that, that somehow maybe I am on the right track here.

So each week on his show they played a lot of songs and made a lot of

jokes, and he would end the show with his original song called "High Sierra." So maybe I will share just a few of those lyrics right now:

High Sierra, skies are blue,
Whispering pines remind me of you.
Walking together, over meadows green,
We pledged our love, by a rippling stream.
I can see the sunlight shining on her golden hair

And hear the words she told me as we were standing there.

High Sierra, calling me home.

It is at this point in the show where the credits would fade out. The lyrics would come to an end, and people were already waiting again for next Sunday to come around.

As the song says, High Sierra is once again calling him home. After 93 years of enriching the lives of northern Californians, many of us were fortunate enough to sing along with him during those 93 years. Those memories won't fade. There will never be another like Moriss Taylor. He will be greatly missed, indeed.

High Sierra, calling him home.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 57 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I stand on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives as the clock keeps ticking for us to act on behalf of DREAMers and DACA recipients.

Tonight, this House approved a continuing resolution funding government to continue to stay open for another 4 weeks that did not include a resolution to the dire conditions faced by DREAMers and DACA recipients. It did not include funding for community based health clinics, and it certainly did not adequately support the men and women in our Armed Forces.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, as we continue to move forward, many Members of this House have worked diligently throughout the months to address the issues faced by DREAMers and DACA recipients. In fact, they have engaged in bipartisan legislative solutions. And we currently have three bipartisan bills that could have been voted on today on this very same floor of the House of Representatives. I guarantee you that if they would have been brought here to this floor and they would have given

us the opportunity to vote on them, they would have passed.

Because DREAMers are very popular in America. All polls show that over 80 percent of Americans across the Nation in different States, in different cities, want these young people to stay. Once you meet them, once you see their young faces, their energy, their desire to work and move forward, their patriotism for America, they win you over.

No other immigration-related issue, I believe, has polled as high as the support that DREAMers are getting from across the country. Folks who live in red States and blue States, in districts represented by Democrats, districts represented by Republicans, feel overwhelmingly that these young people should stay here; that they should not be punished and sent back to a country that many of them don't really know, where they have no connection with family members.

Some may not even speak the language spoken in those countries or be familiar with the customs in those nations. They feel they are Americans, and they have contributed tremendously to our Nation. So these bipartisan efforts and solutions that my colleagues have engaged in are very important.

Let's begin by talking about the Dream Act, a clean Dream Act, which is a bipartisan bill led by Representative LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, a Democrat from California; and Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, a Republican from Florida.

This particular bill, the Dream Act, a clean Dream Act, has 200 bipartisan cosponsors, including myself. This is not amnesty. Many have tried to portray the DREAMers' quest and fight as a fight for amnesty. This is not amnesty. This particular bill, which has over 200 cosponsors, asks of the DREAMers that in order for them to be eligible for the Dream Act, that a person needed to have been 18 years of age on the date of entry, that they must have been physically present in the U.S. 4 years prior to the enactment of the legislation.

Any applicant could not be convicted of any offense punishable for more than 1 year, or three or more offenses resulting in 90 days or more of imprisonment. In other words, they had to have a clean record.

This was just to be considered. Once they were accepted into the program, they will get a conditional permanent residency status, a temporary green card. Then to transition to lawful permanent residence under the Dream Act, a DREAMer needed to do certain things. In other words, for them to transition from a conditional green card to a permanent green card, they needed to maintain a clean record for 8 years. They needed to have completed a college degree or 2 years for a bachelor's degree or higher, or they must have served in the military for 2 years.

It further asks that they would have to have been employed for at least 3 years for 75 percent of the time under

the conditional permanent residency status.

In addition to that, only after meeting all of the above, could they then transition to legal permanent status. So after that, they would have to wait an additional 5 years for them to be able to apply for naturalization, citizenship. So they would have to wait in total, from the time they got their temporary green card to the time they actually will be eligible to apply for citizenship, a total of 13 years. More than a decade.

So the campaign to portray the Dream Act or a solution to the DREAMers and the DACA situation as amnesty is totally false. So 13 years—13 long years—they would have to wait from the minute they got a temporary green card to the time they will be eligible to apply for naturalization, citizenship.

So 80 percent of America supports these DREAMers. And this is the Dream Act, a bipartisan bill that has been around for some time, led by Republicans and Democrats that did not have a border security provision to it.

But we heard how the other side of the aisle wanted to address some of the concerns at the border. A group of bipartisan Members of this House led by Representative WILL HURD from Texas and PETE AGUILAR began to put together a second proposal, USA Act. And this proposal currently has 49 bipartisan cosponsors. It came out of efforts put together by a group called the Problem Solvers.

In this particular proposal, in order for you to be eligible for the USA Act, a person needed to be at least 18 years of age on the date of entry and not have been convicted, again, of an offense punishable for more than 1 year, or any combination of offenses resulting in imprisonment for more than 1 year. Then the person could transition to lawful permanent residency.

Again, they had to maintain a clean record for 8 years, and had to complete a college degree or complete 2 years in a bachelor's degree or higher postsecondary vocational programs. They must have served in the military for the entire length of their enlistment contract or been employed for at least 3 years 80 percent of the time they were under conditional permanent residency status. Only after meeting all of the above, could they then transition to legal permanent residency.

□ 2115

Then after 5 additional years, they will have been able to apply for naturalization.

The USA Act has a border security component unlike the clean Dream Act.

These bipartisan Members of this House tried to address some of the concerns of Members from across the aisle who continue to complain and be seriously concerned about border security. They included directing Homeland Security to deploy more technology along