

others are unwilling to discuss, this veteran is really a fighter and a soldier of truth.

These individuals have dedicated themselves to truthfully informing the people of the Virgin Islands about their community and the world outside of our small corner of it. They are truly legacies of D. Hamilton Jackson.

We must continue this work, as Virgin Islanders still have limited constitutional rights as determined by the Insular Cases of the early 1900s. Those Supreme Court decisions relegate people living within the territories to a separate and unequal status.

The cases posture that people living in territories are inferior races that cannot understand Anglo-Saxon principles of law. It keeps American citizens living in places like the Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico as disenfranchised from the full American experience.

As a young constituent of mine recently wrote in an essay outlining the importance of free press, “only a free press can ensure the people’s access to information and build a well-informed, transparent, and accountable society,” and that “we, the people, owe it to our country to demand and defend the freedom of such a priceless heritage.”

What a wonderful sentiment from a young person.

Free press, we must cherish and protect it as a most American of values and as one of the most fragile pillars of democracy here and around the world.

In the words of D. Hamilton Jackson, I challenge us to walk in his spirit and challenge the status quo for the betterment of our people and our Nation. Let us all embody the motto of his newspaper, The Herald: “Liberty, equality, fraternity.”

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day because, after decades of struggle, this House will recognize the Armenian genocide, just in time to be viewed by the last survivors of the first genocide of the 20th century.

Two weeks ago, I came to this floor and I said now is the time, finally, to recognize the Armenian genocide because it was no longer the time to kowtow to Turkey. Since then, many of us have approached the Speaker and urged her to put this bill on the floor.

But this great day belongs to NANCY PELOSI, our Speaker, who made the decision to bring it to the floor, where we will pass this resolution, H. Res. 296, which I and so many others introduced to this House in April of this year. And, of course, I have cosponsored and been an original cosponsor of every Armenian genocide resolution since 1997.

We always should have recognized the Armenian genocide, but we were

told again and again that we wouldn’t do it because we have this great alliance with Turkey.

Earlier this month, Turkish forces shelled to the left and then to the right of an American base. It seemed clear to many that they were ready to kill Americans. America withdrew. And this was not some well-planned, careful, deliberate withdrawal. We left because of the Turkish shelling and the Turkish threats.

Great alliance? It has been a great alliance for Turkey. We defended them from communism. We defended them from the Soviet Union. We provided them \$23 billion in aid. And we are the reason why there is not an independent Kurdistan in northern Iraq.

They shelled to the left; they shelled to the right of an American military outpost.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire massacred 1.5 million Armenians, the first genocide of the 20th century. There is no doubt that this occurred. Even the administration testified before our committee last week.

The massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915, et cetera, was one of the greatest crimes of the 20th century, and this is not in dispute. There is no dispute that that mass death constituted a genocide because Raphael Lemkin, who invented the word “genocide,” said the Armenian genocide was an example—the first example, perhaps—of what he was talking about.

It is time that we recognize the genocide because genocide denial is the last act of the genocide. First, you obliterate a people; then, you seek to obliterate their memory; and, finally, you seek to obliterate the memory of the obliteration.

But genocide denial is also the first step in the next genocide. When Hitler’s cadres wondered whether they could get away with the Holocaust, he assured them: Who today speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?

And it is time to recognize this genocide to remove a stain on America’s honor because, up until now, we have hidden and refused to acknowledge the truth. We have been silent, all in an effort to appease Turkey.

Turkey committed a genocide in World War I and denies it to this day. Germany committed a genocide during World War II and has acknowledged it from the 1940s.

Germany has moved on to be a prosperous and strong democracy. Turkey continues to deny the genocide, then passes law prohibiting the discussion of the genocide; and that leads to censorship, authoritarianism, undercuts the rule of law, leads to corruption and a country that has great problems.

Where would Germany be if it denied the Holocaust to this day? Where would we be if we denied the genocide of so many Native American Tribes?

Turkey will be a great ally of the United States only when it recognizes the first genocide of the 20th century, only when it allows free discussion of its own history by its own people.

So, today is the right day to recognize the first genocide of the 20th century. We should have done it earlier. We should do it every year on the anniversary in April. But it starts here and now, and, finally, America can stand up along with so many other countries that have recognized that genocide.

BILLS ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address two critical bills that would mandate studies to examine, one, whether tasers are a safer alternative to firearms and, two, how innovative technology can enhance the safety of firearms.

My bill, H.R. 4740, the TASER Access, Safety, and Effectiveness Review Study Act, or TASERS Act, will direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to coordinate a multiagency study comparing the effectiveness and the safety of firearms and of tasers. By studying tasers, Mr. Speaker, we can determine whether they can be a safe, effective, and, most importantly, non-lethal weapon of self-defense.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4784 would direct the National Institute of Justice to update its 2013 study on gun safety technologies. The 2013 NIJ study noted that several innovative gun-locking technologies were close to coming onto the market in our Nation.

Newer gun-locking or smart-gun technologies require fingerprints or other advanced mechanisms to unlock the firearms. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, vehement protests and inaccurate information about drastic cost increases from the gun lobby have prevented this technology from becoming widely available.

Mr. Speaker, smart-gun technology has the potential to stop firearms from being used by those who shouldn’t possess them. A 2019 Department of Justice survey found that 56 percent of prisoners who possessed a firearm during their offense obtained it through illicit channels. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, a study in the American Journal of Public Health concluded that over 1,500 stolen guns were recovered in connection with violent crimes between 2010 and 2016.

Updating the Department of Justice’s 2013 study would be a critical step forward into determining how smart-gun technology can be incorporated into the multifaceted approach needed to reduce gun violence.

Congress must always seek to harness the power of innovation and innovative technology to make Americans safer. The studies these bills would mandate are a critical first step in evaluating how we can use technology and innovation to prevent gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor both of these measures and encourage

my colleagues to join me in supporting them.

EMERGENCE OF AMERICAN HEROES

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are in interesting times. I think it was Confucius who said to live in interesting times is a great opportunity. It is.

Unfortunately, the rule of law and democracy are at stake. And as they are and as the Intel Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Oversight and Reform Committee have hearings—and later, there will be public hearings—we are seeing American heroes emerge.

Today, an American hero, a lieutenant colonel who earned a Purple Heart, will be testifying. Colonel Vindman listened to the conversation between President Zelensky and President Trump, and he will testify as to what happened. It won't be a memorandum; it will be what really took place on that call and why it alarmed him so much.

The administration doesn't want Colonel Vindman to testify, but he is testifying because he is a patriot, because it is his duty, and because he knows what is at stake.

What is at stake is democracy. What is at stake is our Constitution. What is at stake is our Republic.

□ 1045

We have had other people testify, the Ambassador who was removed 2 months early because she refused to go along with what was taking place, and Ms. Fiona Hill. These are heroes. These are patriots.

Unfortunately, on some news networks that are mouthpieces for the administration, they have had their patriotism questioned, and they have been vilified.

This is the beginning of despotism. When heroes who come forth with proud careers of service in the State Department or the military, without a blemish on their record, and without trying to benefit financially from anybody at all, except doing their job for the United States of America, are questioned because they come forth to testify as to information that threatens our Constitution, that shows abuse of power and an effort to not comply with our Constitution and carrying out congressionally-mandated spending to protect a country fighting Russian aggression in their own territory.

These are not people like Manafort, and Flynn, and Carter Page, who wanted and got money from Ukrainians, and Turks, and Russians, and others to benefit themselves from countries that do not have our interests at heart.

So, as we live through these interesting times, let us appreciate the heroes that are emerging, giving testimony, and putting their jobs and their

future security and their reputations at risk because, unfortunately, rather than being hailed as the heroes that they truly are, they are being vilified; and that is dangerous, and it is concerning to me.

Some of the people that vilify them praise people like Flynn and Manafort, who sold our country out for their own personal advancement and riches.

America, beware, and honor those who stand up for you.

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 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Evan Hoffman, Congregation Anshe Sholom, New Rochelle, New York, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, bless the work of the United States House of Representatives. Fortify our legislators' constitutional commitments and grant them the wisdom to draft laws that best serve the interests of the American people. O Lord, in a time of polarization and rancorous dispute, we beseech Thee to help our elected officials maintain decorum, civility, commonality of purpose, and a sense of shared American destiny.

Heavenly Father, guide our Representatives so that they might serve, in the eyes of the citizenry, as role models of reconciliation and cooperation. We pray that in a future time the prophet's words might be said in reference to this Congress: "Restore your judges as in days of old, your counselors as at the beginning."

Bless our Nation with peace and prosperity, our citizens with health and happiness, and our national institutions with strength and stability. May this be Your will, and let us say: amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUDD 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 RABBI EVAN HOFFMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my dear friend and constituent, Rabbi Evan Hoffman, for giving the opening prayer today.

Rabbi Hoffman has led Congregation Anshe Sholom in New Rochelle, New York, since 2012. He graduated Yeshiva College summa cum laude, where he received ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan's Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Hoffman is an accomplished author, writing the weekly essay series titled "Thoughts on the Parashah," as well as the editor of English language publications for Talmud Israeli.

Rabbi Hoffman was raised in Great Neck, New York, and is an avid New York Mets fan. Rabbi Hoffman and his wife, Sari, are the proud parents of two wonderful children, Eliyahu and Elana.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for the wonderful prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HOUSE APPROVAL OF VETERAN TREATMENT COURT COORDINATION ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House approval of the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act legislation led by Chairman CHARLIE CRIST, of which I am a proud cosponsor, directing grants, training, and assistance for communities to establish and operate veteran treatment courts.

In 2008, Buffalo City Court Judge Robert Russell established the very first veteran treatment court in the Nation. Today, there are over 400 such courts. These specialized courts provide veterans, many battling substance abuse or post-traumatic stress disorder, with a tactical path to avoid jail and take command of their future.

At their side are fellow veterans, also known as battle buddies, who serve as volunteer mentors, as well as judges and professional staff who can connect these warriors with VA benefits. Support for veteran treatment courts allows the Nation to give veterans what they have given us: freedom and peace.