

the fact that we have a Democratic House, that is, that we are in the majority, and a Republican Senate with the Republicans in the majority—now, I understand the gentleman's concern that it is necessary to get bipartisan agreement in the Senate in order to get that 60-vote threshold. And you and I may agree on the 60-vote threshold of getting bills on the floor. It is one thing to pass something or not.

But, in any event, I would urge the gentleman to urge Mr. McCONNELL to pass their prescription bill. And if it is what you say and it can be done unanimously, send it over here and we will have a conference. Because both of us have articulated that we are for making sure that prescription drug costs do not price people out of being healthy. So I would urge you to do that.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

And now that the Senate has a little more free time, maybe we can get them to take up some of that legislation. I surely hope that we, on both sides, will continue working toward those, because there are areas of common ground that many have found and many have worked for months to find.

I do want to shift gears and talk about the decorum the night of the State of the Union.

The President talked about many things, as in any State of the Union, and I have attended 10 now. We have had Republican and Democrat Presidents, and there are things that I agree with in certain States of the Union, and you can stand, you can sit, you can applaud. But I think we all saw something that goes way beyond and, in fact, violates the rules of decorum in the House, and that is when the Speaker ripped up the speech.

Clearly, it was a premeditated move. I have seen actual video of her practicing or starting to rip it prior to the end of the speech.

But when you go through the speech—and, again, the President's theme was “the great American comeback,” and he talked about things that are working well in our country, working well for everybody, where every segment of society is benefiting, and, of course, as every President since Ronald Reagan has done, highlighting some of those great things that are happening in our country by bringing people into the gallery to show the real face on some of these great things that our country does.

Again, if part of a policy that created that great visual is something that one side disagrees with, some people stand up, some people don't. But to suggest that it didn't happen or that it is a lie—as some in the leadership of your majority actually said, the whole speech was a lie—I would ask: Was General Charles McGee's recognition as a Tuskegee Airman a lie? I think that was something great that people enjoyed celebrating.

Kayla Mueller, the humanitarian worker who was brutally murdered by

al-Baghdadi—it happened. Her family was here. And al-Baghdadi was taken out by American troops, which I think was the right thing to do. That is not a lie. That is something that we ought to recognize and respect.

□ 1245

When Staff Sergeant Christopher Hake was killed serving a tour of duty in Iraq by a roadside bomb that was generated from an Iranian terrorist, which was led by General Soleimani. And now Soleimani is gone because the President took action to take him out. That happened. It is not a lie.

In fact, the fact that Soleimani is gone is something we should all celebrate, just as we celebrated when President Obama gave the order to take out Osama Bin Laden.

I think for most people there wasn't a dry eye in the House. I know I have heard from friends all across the country who were tearing up when they saw First Class Sergeant Townsend Williams, who had been on his fourth tour in the Middle East, and here was his wife and young children, and the President surprised surely her, and all of us, by bringing him back home. What a special moment that was, just to see that family reunited.

And, again, tears, I think, were not a partisan issue at that moment. But it clearly did happen, and is not a lie, and it is something, again, we should all celebrate.

But again, for decorum of the House, for the Speaker to do that, I think most would agree, was not appropriate. At a minimum, an apology should have happened. There wasn't.

We brought legislation yesterday to rebuke the Speaker to make it clear that that is something not becoming of any Member of the House, let alone the Speaker of the House. Unfortunately, it was tabled on the roll call vote yesterday.

But I would hope that we could recognize, when that happens again, that we won't tolerate that kind of activity from our Members, let alone our leader.

If the gentleman has anything to say about that, I will yield.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, starting a State of the Union with a shout of “four more years” reminds me more of a rally than a State of the Union.

Clearly, neither the Speaker, nor any of us in any way diminished people that he introduced; some of whom I severely disagree with and thought that the actions taken with respect to that individual were totally inappropriate in a State of the Union because it served further to divide and to undermine any ability to work together.

Having said that, “four more years” was disrespectful to this institution.

The recitation in the gentleman's resolution of the honoring of individuals he just reflected had nothing to do with the State of the Union, but had everything to do with honoring people who had done great things, experienced

great hardship, who ought to be empathized with; no one was saying those were a lie.

One can interpret the speech for what each believed it was and can say something about it and reflect to the American people what they think of the substance of the representation of the State of the Union.

It had nothing to do with the people who were honored, whether we agreed with them being honored or not. Certainly, I agreed with almost every one of them, save one.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments, but those names were part of that document that was ripped, and I am sure many of them were as offended as we are that it happened. I just would hope it wouldn't happen again. I wish we would all speak out equally against that.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, none of those individuals should take anything that was done personally. In fact, almost every one of those individuals was honored by people on this side of the aisle and that side of the aisle acknowledging them and honoring them with appropriate action.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman making that statement, and I would share that. I wish the person who took the action would make that statement to those people because many were offended. But that will be left to discuss later.

But for now, I look forward to working with the gentleman on all of these issues that we discussed that the President offered the olive branch for us to work with him on and, I think, are very achievable if we do roll up our sleeves and tackle it together.

I think there is, again, a template for how to do it. USMCA is clearly one, and there are many others. 21st Century Cures is another example when we were in the majority with a Democrat President and worked very closely to achieve something that will be a milestone in curing major diseases for years to come; and, hopefully, we can deliver more of those kinds of wins for the American people that we all represent.

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

GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Every Nevadan was affected by the October 1 shooting that claimed 59 lives, injured more than 800, and shattered the lives of countless more. Gun violence has touched too many of our lives, both on that day, 2 years ago, and daily. In Nevada, someone is killed by gun violence every 19 hours.

I personally lost my father to gun violence when I was 19 years of age. And these deaths are preventable.

My bill, H.R. 4836, the Break the Cycle of Violence Act, is an important step forward to get ahead of the senseless violence.

I am also proud that nearly a year ago, the House passed H.R. 8 for meaningful gun background checks.

I know the cruelty of suffering a loss at the hands of a gun; knowing your loved one won't come home because someone was armed with a weapon they should not have had access to.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to vote on H.R. 8, and for this body to take up H.R. 4836.

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

(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, earlier this week, I had the honor of meeting Gilbert Howland and Bob Passanisi at a reception honoring Merrill's Marauders of World War II.

During the war, Gilbert and Bob volunteered for a mission that was described as only dangerous and hazardous. These brave men, and approximately 3,000 others, answered the call of duty and were deployed to Northern Burma to fight behind enemy lines.

Only nine of these selfless volunteers are still alive today, and they deserve to be honored for their bravery, their sacrifice, and their love of country.

Pennsylvania had more Marauder volunteers than any other State, and one volunteer, Russell Hamler, from Pittsburgh, is still with us today.

I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 906, the Merrill's Marauders Congressional Gold Medal Act, introduced by Representative PETE KING of New York. I would like to encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and honor the legacy of Merrill's Marauders.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University:

Mr. BUCSHON, Indiana

ISSUES OF THE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, under the new rules of this Congress, since

the rules have been changed that only allow one Special Order per week, and despite for years my having encouraged members of our conference to sign up for Special Orders, it is our chance to get messages out that we feel need to be out.

As I have said for years to our conference, you need to sign up for the Special Orders because you don't want my face to be the face of the party. And I am very encouraged, we have got more people signing up now.

But under the Speaker's new rules, as of this Congress, only one per week per person, so I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to be here for my one Special Order of the week.

And what a week it was. Wow. The impeachment proceedings came to the conclusion that most everybody who had studied the situation knew that they would; no matter how long it got drug out, it was going to be this conclusion.

The State of the Union address Tuesday night; most people, or at least around here, most people know the Constitution requires a State of the Union report or address, but it doesn't require that it be done orally. And originally, the very first were provided in writing.

But it is an opportunity for us to come together, even though it has not been quite as homogenous a body as it has been at times when it comes to the State of the Union.

It has just been interesting. You know, some call it Trump Derangement Syndrome, some call it PTSD, President Trump Stress Disorder. But apparently, he causes stress, in some cases derangement, so people that normally think straight just have trouble reaching the same wise conclusions that they used to. So that has been an interesting thing to observe.

But here we are, end of the week of impeachment, end of the week after a State of the Union address.

I was honored to have my friend, Nigel Farage, who has been fighting for about a decade, actually, to make the point that President Trump has been making here in America; that unless our country is strong, we cannot take care of other countries' disasters and problems or assaults on freedom around the world. We can't. We have to make sure we are strong first.

And the example that has been given before of being on a jet plane, and the instructions, for good reason, say that the adult must put the mask on in the event of a loss of cabin pressure, which means there will be a loss of oxygen. So put your mask on first, so that you will be conscious and helpful to your children and others who are not able to put the mask on themselves.

If we are not strong, if we don't take care of the United States of America, as our oath should require us to do, then we are not able to be that shining light on a hill. We are not able to be that hope for freedom.

There are a lot of countries around the world that don't care for the

United States. Some of it is simple jealousy.

But some call the United States imperialist pigs, which is no reflection on the United States. It is a reflection on their ignorance of what imperialism means, as well as exactly what the history of the United States is.

We have gone and fought and sacrificed our greatest treasure, American lives—you are hard-pressed to find any place in history where a country sacrificed that precious treasure, in our case, American lives—for other people's freedom. And we don't require that they learn our language; that they begin to get permission from our government here in order to conduct affairs in their own country.

We are not imperialists. We are not seeking a hegemony. That is not the case at all. We are about freedom.

□ 1300

We have so many friends in France. We have, of course, a painting over here. It is the only painting in the whole Capitol full length of a foreigner, and here it is. It has been here in the House for so many decades, a friend of George Washington that is over here on my right, Lafayette.

We have had great help from the French. In fact, they helped ensure the final victory at Yorktown with their ships and their military. The French military was there at the surrender, where Cornwallis cowardly said he was ill and couldn't come out and surrender, so he sent out a subordinate. We owe the French people a great deal.

Historians have wrestled with how, after the American Revolution, we came about having freedom without the thousands of heads being separated from bodies, as occurred after the French Revolution that began 10 or so years after we got our Constitution. The French Revolution ended up ultimately resulting in an Emperor named Napoleon. Before Napoleon even took charge, so many people were killed, so much bloodshed.

Historians have wrestled with that. How did the American Revolution result in freedom without the tremendous beheadings and hangings that occurred in other places like after the French Revolution? What made the difference? I believe those who point to the First Great Awakening around the 1730s and 1740s, a recognition of Biblical principles and of just who Almighty God was and is and this desire for freedom that our Creator has provided.

Some say, well, if we are endowed with it, why doesn't everyone have freedom around the world? Well, like anything you inherit, if you are not willing to fight for it, there will be evil people who will take it from you, and you won't have it. Thank God for all of those who have served in our military and fought for freedom.

Some historians say the big difference, they believe, between the results of the American Revolution and