

would win World War II. Eighty pilots took off that day. Four of them are still alive. They had their last reunion this week.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1209, which will give a Congressional Gold Medal to the Doolittle Raiders and give them one final honor before their final flight home.

TRAGEDY IN BOSTON

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Yesterday was a tragic day. In our thoughts and prayers are those who lost their lives or were injured during the Boston Marathon, as well as the families and friends of those affected. The character of our country was reflected in the Boston police and firefighters, the first responders, the nurses and the medical providers, the people donating blood, the residents offering shelter and care, the thousands praying for healing, and everyone opening their doors in Boston to care for those in need.

Today, we are all Bostonians. There are no words to console those who have lost loved ones, but Congress will assist those in Boston and Massachusetts in any way possible. As we await answers, we will continue to make emergency preparedness, responsiveness, and caring for those in need a priority.

TRAGEDY IN BOSTON

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

Mr. MESSER. I rise on behalf of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District to express our condolences to the victims of yesterday's bombing in Boston. The thoughts and prayers of every American are with those who were killed and maimed by this unspeakable horror. We don't yet know who turned what should have been a day of triumph into a day of tragedy. But those whose lives have been forever changed by this terror should know that their government will not rest until the responsible are brought to justice.

May God bless the victims, comfort their families, and continue to watch over the United States of America.

CHARLES YOUNG BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MONUMENT

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. I would like to join with my fellow Ohioans to thank President Obama and Secretary Salazar for the designation of the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Wilberforce, the great State of Ohio. This monument recognizes the legacy of Charles Young and the proud traditions of African Americans in our military over the last nearly 150 years.

I join my good friend Marsha Bayless, mayor of Xenia, Ohio, who is in D.C. today, because we believe that it is a great honor for our community that the home of this outstanding American, the first African American to reach the rank of colonel, be recognized and honored. I urge the House to wholeheartedly support the President's efforts to preserve the American heritage through the Antiquities Act.

KING-THOMPSON PROPOSAL THREATENS SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern and opposition to legislation introduced today in the House of Representatives by Representatives PETER KING and MIKE THOMPSON. This bill, which mirrors a recent Senate proposal to expand background checks, holds threats to our Second Amendment rights while doing little to address the underlying problems behind violent crimes. As thousands of Montanans have shared with me, expanding Washington bureaucracy and restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens is the wrong approach. This is the number one issue I hear about from my great State.

As a fifth-generation Montanan and lifelong sportsman, I am deeply committed to protecting the rights that thousands of Montanans lawfully exercise every day. We recognize that the Second Amendment is not about hunting. It is about freedom. That's why I joined my colleague, Representative STEVE STOCKMAN, in the calling of the House to block any proposal to undermine the Second Amendment; and I will continue to fight against any proposals, whether in the House or the Senate, that threaten Montanans' Second Amendment rights.

STANDING WITH BOSTON

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

Ms. KUSTER. In the wake of yesterday's tragedy in Boston, I come to the floor with a very heavy heart. In the days and weeks to come, we'll remember those we lost and those who were injured. We'll remember where we were when we first heard the news, and we'll remember how a cowardly act of violence shattered a beautiful Boston day.

But we'll also remember the extraordinary heroism that we saw in Boston yesterday. In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, when every human instinct tells you to seek safety and to run away, our fearless first responders ran toward danger, selflessly putting themselves in harm's way to save others.

In the worst of that moment, we saw the best of America. In times of crisis, we stick together. We take care of one

another. We put the needs of others before our own. And no one exemplifies this more than those brave Americans who rushed to aid the victims of this horrific crime.

As law enforcement works to identify those responsible for these cowardly acts, I join all Granite Staters in sending my thoughts and prayers to the victims, their families, and the entire city of Boston.

□ 1220

TERRORISM IN BOSTON

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Oregon's Second District to offer my deepest sympathies to the families and the victims of this senseless act of terrorism in Boston.

Scripture tells us: blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Our prayers go to those who lost loved ones and to the injured as they recover so that they may be comforted.

Our thanks go to the first responders and Good Samaritans who selflessly assisted the victims yesterday. That's what Americans do; they help their fellow men and women in time of need. That's a common bond that unites us.

Boston is the birthplace of the American Revolution, the cradle of liberty for our Nation. That spirit of freedom and brotherhood lives on in us as Americans and brings us closer together in our grief. As Americans, we will care for the victims and their families; we will ensure that justice is done for those behind these cowardly attacks; and we will emerge as a Nation, stronger than ever before.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the much-anticipated discussion on immigration reform, we have tended to overlook a critical aspect of it, and that is called family reunification.

What's the problem? Family reunification has arbitrary caps and major backlogs. The caps are about 114,000 per country, and most countries have an average of 10 years of backlog. They're working on 2003 applications. But there is one country that has had a greater rate, and that is the Philippines. This is the saddest example.

The Filipino World War II veterans were promised full rights for fighting with us against the Japanese in World War II. After the war, there was the Rescission Act of 1946 which took away that promise. In 1990, we finally made good on that promise, but we're processing 1989 applications to reunify these families. Many can't travel anymore. Many can't wait. Families are critical to the success of this country.