

deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ. In his hand he held the rosary and also his beloved cell phone.

Vince educated America on the threat of Islamic jihad. We will forever remember his strength, courage, and his faith. He had a life well-lived. We will never forget the contributions to America by the wonderful and legendary Vince Flynn.

□ 1240

JUSTICE PREVAILS

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, our amazing, time-traveling Supreme Court has truly surprised me this week. It was able to take us back to the 1960s on Tuesday and to step into the 21st century the next day by striking down DOMA.

Yesterday's ruling was a long-overdue affirmation that married same-sex couples deserve the same Federal benefits as everyone else. It's a major step towards marriage equality. But this victory comes on the heels of a dangerous blow to voting rights. On Tuesday, the Court struck down a provision that has been vital to guaranteeing the right to vote for all Americans. The Voting Rights Act is a crucial guard against States backsliding on the progress of the civil rights movement, and we must now work to restore its protections.

The struggle for voting rights and marriage equality are not so different. Both have been long fights with victories hard won. And in each we have seen freedoms and progress once thought impossible become inevitable. Yet even as we celebrate a victory for marriage equality, the Voting Rights Act ruling shows us that we cannot take these gains for granted, that maintaining these liberties requires constant vigilance and continued advocacy.

These fights are far from over; but in time, I know we will succeed. In the words of Dr. King: The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

ANOTHER DAY AT THE IRS, ANOTHER SCANDAL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, another day, another IRS scandal is revealed.

The Inspector General has identified improper use of taxpayer money by the people who collect taxes—the tax collectors. While the IRS was targeting conservative groups for audits, over 100 IRS employees improperly used government credit cards. “I’m shocked.”

Tax collectors have been sticking it to the taxpayers with spending only the IRS can get away with, including—

listen to this—thousands of dollars on diet pills, romance novels, baby bottles, baby clothes, smartphones, a popcorn machine, bandanas, stuffed animals, sunglasses, “swag” like kazoos, and Thomas the Tank Engine wristbands and bathtub toys. There’s a lot more. You can’t make this up, Mr. Speaker. Were they ever disciplined by the IRS? Of course not. This is the IRS. They are the law. They are the government.

Mr. Speaker, it’s time to audit the tax man and the tax collectors. The squandered money should be returned in full to the Treasury—with interest penalty, just like the tax collectors charge citizens when they audit us.

And that’s just the way it is.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. O’ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to warn my colleagues about the Corker-Hoeven amendment within the Senate’s immigration bill.

To my colleagues who are concerned with the fiscal health of our country, I call your attention to this provision, which will commit \$50 billion to double the size of the Border Patrol, add 700 miles of walls and fencing between the U.S. and Mexico at a time when we have record-low northbound apprehensions and net migration from Mexico is zero.

To my colleagues who cherish our civil liberties and our constitutional rights, can you live with a \$50 billion militarized buildup within the United States where more than 6 million of your fellow citizens live?

And to my colleagues who care about human rights and the sanctity of human life, more than 5,000 people have died crossing the border into the United States over the last 15 years. Let’s not perpetuate this problem; let’s solve it. We need comprehensive reform, but we need comprehensive reform that’s rational, that’s humane, and that’s fiscally responsible.

THANK YOU TO CARL MEYER FOR HIS SERVICE TO PARKLAND COLLEGE AND CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Carl Meyer for his years of service to Parkland College and the Champaign County community.

Carl originally moved to Champaign County in 1971 when he came to the University of Illinois to work as an assistant football coach. Years later, he left to work for the Universities of Arizona and Cincinnati before returning to Champaign County in 1992.

In 1997, Carl was asked by then-Parkland College president Zelema Harris

to serve as the executive director of the Parkland College Foundation. Throughout his 16 years with the Parkland College Foundation, Carl oversaw a major gifts campaign, raising more than \$14 million, as well as seeing projects like the Tony Noel Agricultural Technology Applications Center and the Parkland Automotive Technology Center go from inception to completion. This is in addition to the more than 140 scholarships he established and the dozens of partnerships he created with businesses and academic departments.

Words can’t express how much Carl means to Parkland College and Champaign County. I would like to thank Carl for his commitment to Parkland College and its students, and for his leadership in the community. Enjoy your retirement, Carl, and know you will be missed. You deserve it.

VETERAN SPOUSE EQUAL TREATMENT ACT

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

Ms. TITUS. For far too long, DOMA denied legally married same-sex couples access to Federal benefits, including those provided by the VA. But with yesterday’s decisions, the Supreme Court sent a clear message that all Americans, gay or straight, must be afforded equal protection under the law.

There is no question that now we must implement the Court’s ruling throughout every department of the Federal Government. Accordingly, I’m proud to introduce the Veteran Spouse Equal Treatment Act to amend the VA’s definition of spouse as an individual of the opposite sex. This is a basic matter of aligning the VA with our Nation’s laws, of living up to the principles of fairness and equality, of extending benefits to thousands of deserving military spouses, and of defending all those who have proudly worn the uniform of the U.S. armed services and their families.

Yesterday, justice and freedom prevailed over intolerance and hate. So today I ask my colleagues to work with me to see that this legislation is passed without delay, to implement the Supreme Court’s decision, and leave no question about equal protection under the law for all Americans.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROCARBON AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during consideration of H.R. 1613 and H.R. 2231 pursuant to House Resolution 274, amendment numbered 1 printed in part A of House Report 113-131 and amendments numbered 5 and 10 printed in part B of that report be modified by the form I have placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the modifications.