

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY, TURNAROUND TUESDAY, AND FINAL SELMA TO MONTGOMERY VOTING RIGHTS MARCH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who, in the face of violent opposition, bravely stood for what is right. This March will mark the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the final Selma to Montgomery voting rights march.

In 2013, I had the honor of joining Congressman JOHN LEWIS to visit some of these historic sites, including the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where nearly 8,000 foot soldiers marched to demonstrate against the denial of African Americans' right to vote. The sacrifice and perseverance of the Selma foot soldiers inspired the Nation, and in August of that year, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law.

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I, along with many of my colleagues, am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 431, which would award the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to the foot soldiers of the voting rights movement. The bravery of the civil rights activists demonstrated half a century ago was remarkable, but we must not forget how much still needs to be done.

KAYLA MUELLER

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Kayla Mueller, one of my constituents, who was brutally kidnapped and killed by the Islamic State, or ISIS.

Kayla was a young woman who was still full of youthful exuberance, optimism about peace and human relations, and who was willing to put her life on the line to help others halfway around the world. She was a beautiful soul, and I know she is with God now.

I am not youthful.

I see ISIS for what it is.

This is an Islamic terrorist group that is a scourge to humanity. Our society cannot exist with barbaric and evil people who value death over life, war over peace, and chaos over order. Their evil deeds are well known—as they publicize them—genocide, mass murder, sadistic killings.

I am done. I hope you are, too.

The elimination of ISIS is long overdue. In order to defeat these terrorists, we need a strategic and comprehensive military strategy.

FUNDING HOMELAND SECURITY AND IMPROVING PORT SECURITY

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to warn of the impending danger of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security.

While terror attacks are occurring worldwide, it is unbelievable and it would be unforgivable to stop funding the Department that protects our Nation's security. Yet some in Congress are willing to shut down this Department and put our Nation at risk unless we deport 5.3 million people.

As cochair of the Ports Caucus and as the Representative of the Port of Los Angeles, I can tell you that our ports are one of the most vulnerable entryways into this country; and though I believe we should do more to protect our Nation's ports, closing the Department of Homeland Security at this time would make our ports even more vulnerable to an attack.

We must act now. Time is running out to pass legislation to keep this Department open.

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TERRORISM THREAT NOT ON PAR WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

(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, in the administration's national security strategy unveiled last week, they went as far as to identify climate change as a threat on par with terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

I agree that we need to continue to be cognizant and attentive of the impacts of the climate, but it is downright dangerous to equate the issue to the very real and direct threats that terrorist organizations and networks around the world pose to the lives of American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Americans saw firsthand and will never forget the horrors of September 11, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that thousands of U.S. troops who have fought in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the families and friends of the thousands of Americans who have paid the ultimate price, would respectfully disagree with the President.

Mr. Speaker, just this morning, the White House circulated a proposal to Congress to authorize military action to fight Islamic State terrorists—a day after it was confirmed that an American aid worker had been killed by the terrorist group.

This is a clear indication that the threat of terrorism has posed and continues to pose a much more immediate challenge to our national security and the safety of every American than climate change.

FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, it is irresponsible to hold homeland security funds hostage simply because some of my colleagues don't like the President's action on immigration. There is a time and place to have this debate—and this isn't it.

I spent my career working in public safety and emergency preparedness with the LAPD. Security is in my blood. I know how important it is to be able to plan, prepare, and maintain the morale of those on the front lines.

If we let the Department of Homeland Security funding expire, it isn't nameless bureaucrats who will be suffering. We will shutter the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, halt R&D work to counter security threats, and end FEMA training activities with our local law enforcement. That says nothing of the 147,000 Border Patrol, ICE, and TSA officers, Active Duty Coast Guard, and Secret Service agents who will be forced to work without pay.

These men and women have our backs. We should have theirs.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, in the President's State of the Union Address he declared the need for "21st century infrastructure." With today's legislation to complete the Keystone XL pipeline, we are offering him an infrastructure bill that would create jobs and promote energy security.

This study from the President's own State Department says Keystone will create about 42,000 jobs and generate about \$2 billion in earnings, all while imposing a negligible environmental impact.

This project has been waiting for approval for more than 2,300 days. The Nebraska Supreme Court struck down the challenge against it. Fifty-eight percent of Americans said they support it, and a bipartisan majority in both Chambers of Congress approved it.

I urge the President to listen to the will of his constituents and, if nothing else, maybe read the reports from his own administration. The excuses have run out. It is time to build.

FUND HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, there are only 17 days until the GOP recklessly shuts down the Department of Homeland Security—and only 6 legislative days before that happens. We have a bipartisan bill that we have already agreed to. Bring it to the floor. We will be here. We can pass it today.

When the majority leader was asked why we should pass the DHS funding bill, he said: "Why do we have to?" Seriously. This is about the safety of the