individuals suspected of crossing the border illegally.

The agents approached the suspects and were fired upon, prompting them to return fire. In the gunfight that ensued, two agents were wounded, including Agent Terry. He died from his wounds in the desert later that morning while waiting for medical assistance.

Agent Terry's sacrifice is a constant reminder of the dangers those who defend our homeland face every time they put on their uniform. Their job is to protect our communities, and often, they are the last line of defense against terrorist attacks on our country.

Agent Brian Terry gave the ultimate sacrifice to carry out his duties. Every day, agents like him put everything they have on the line to keep us safe. They deserve everything we have to support them.

THE ASSASSINATION OF BORIS NEMTSOV WAS A REPREHENSIBLE ACT

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the assassination of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov last Friday in front of the Kremlin was a reprehensible act that demands a thorough and independent investigation.

Mr. Nemtsov was a political leader who had fought for democracy inside the system. His murder took place against the backdrop of Putin's continued suppression of the rule of law, political debate, and human rights in Russia. His murder follows the murder of other critics of Putin's tyranny, Anna Politkovskaya and Sergei Magnitsky.

Today, Putin is rebuilding many of the barriers to individual freedom, democracy, and self-determination that were thought relegated to what President Reagan called the ash heap of history.

As a former chairman of the Helsinki Commission in the final years of the cold war, I witnessed the yearnings of the Russian people not to be bullied through fear and control by their leaders. Vladimir Putin and his henchmen have created a culture of terror for those who oppose his rule and have increasingly isolated Russia from the world.

Congress and the American people must keep speaking out against the erosion of the basic freedoms the Russian people achieved in the 1990s.

This week, Mr. Speaker, the thoughts and prayers of the American people are with the family of Mr. Nemtsov and millions whose hopes and dreams he fought for throughout his life.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate having proceeded to reconsider the bill (S. 1) ''An Act to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline'', returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the Senate, in which it originated, it was resolved that the said bill do not pass, two-thirds of the Senators present not having voted in the affirmative.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THEODORE HESBURGH

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

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Theodore Hesburgh. As the president and public face of the University of Notre Dame for so long, his passing isn't just deeply felt in South Bend, Indiana, but all across our great State.

A lifelong educator, Father Hesburgh spent the vast majority of his 97 years giving lessons that everyone—regardless of age, profession, or station in life—can learn from. A few of those lessons, I think, are especially apt for those of us in this body, chief among them: ''The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet.''

Too often, those of us in elective office find it easier to blow the horn of opposition rather than committing ourselves to the hard work of developing constructive policies.

As we reflect on his legacy at this time, my hope is that we will all follow the advice that Father Hesburgh exemplified so well throughout the course of his distinguished career and rededicate ourselves to laying out a positive vision and concrete solutions that will move our great Nation forward.

□ 1515

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have spent the last week and a half debating funding for the Department of Homeland Security, a debate that started because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle didn't like the President's executive actions on immigration.

House Republicans finally did do what they ought to have done all along: joining with Democrats to pass the bipartisan funds for DHS through Fiscal Year 2015. That legislation has restored certainty for thousands of employees at the Department of Homeland Security; and, even more importantly, it ensures the safety and security of our entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, while we settled the funding for DHS, we haven't addressed the issues that led us to the impasse in the first place.

Republicans in both the House and the Senate wanted to hinder the President's legal authority to better manage our broken immigration system. They have called it illegal amnesty, and many of their conservative counterparts have gone as far as calling the President a tyrant, but they have not offered any plan of their own.

Today, during this Special Order hour, I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of our Progressive Caucus, to join with my colleague, the Congressman from Arizona, to express our concerns from the Progressive Caucus' perspective on our plans for the future as it relates to immigration.

To that extent, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for having this opportunity for us to come and talk about the root issue, as she explained, the root issue that caused almost the potential of DHS and that Department having to be shut down because of the amendments added by this House of Representatives to an appropriations bill, a bill that should have been clean.

It was a bipartisan piece of legislation, but amendments were added to it, amendments that were against the President's executive order, amendments that were aimed at undoing any progress that had been made with DREAMers, the DACA, the amendments that were punitive in its entirety, and did not seek any solution to deal with our broken immigration system.

Thankfully, the adults in the House took control. A clean bill was passed with overwhelming and unanimous support from Democrats and with significant support from our Republican colleagues.

That being done, that example should be a harbinger that on ''must-pass'' legislation critical to the future of this Nation, critical to its tranquility, that we stop playing games with that legislation, and that the track to deal with immigration reform should be a track that we all pursue.

To try to put mean-spirited, divisive, ''got you,'' grandstanding amendments on a piece of ''must-pass'' legislation, whether it is Homeland Security the other day, Transportation in the future, that is not governing; that is merely pandering to a political ideology that has nothing to do with the underlying bill, as it did with national security.

Let me talk a little bit about how we got to that situation, as the gentlelady said. In the time that I have been here, immigration reform and the broken system has been an acknowledged fact by all sides.

There was an attempt that the Senate, a year ago, passed, a bipartisan bill, overwhelming support, that took us in a direction, a very critical first step to reforming this broken immigration system. For a year, we waited for the leadership of this House, the Republican leadership, to bring that bill up and let the people's House work its will. That never happened.

Time and time again, we admonished the leadership in saying: If nothing is done by this House to allow an up-or-down vote on that piece of legislation that the Senate passed, the President will have no option but to relieve the anxiety, to relieve the painful family divisions that were going on in this country and to prevent additional community trauma that many of our communities were facing with the high level of detentions and deportations, the splitting of families, even when there was U.S. citizen children or a spouse involved.

The President waited; he waited a considerable amount of time. I was one of those that criticized that waiting period, that should be done immediately. At the end, the President put the executive orders together, the expansion and enhancement of DACA for DREAMers, for young people, and DAPA, for those parents who have citizen children, that they, too, would get the 2-year umbrella of protection, could work and could come out of the shadows.

This was not automatic, as it has been exaggerated by the opponents of his actions. This was a process that requires documentation and that requires qualifications in order to be eligible for the programs.

As the President said, Department of Homeland Security, ICE, and Border Patrol can now concentrate on the smuggling and organized crime that occurs along our border that is the root cause of much of the violence and heartache that we see on our border.

In Arizona, there has been over close to 5,000 individuals that have lost their lives in the desert trying to cross to the United States, countless acts of violence—all generated by human traffickers, drug smugglers, and organized crime on both sides of the border.

It is time to concentrate on that very obvious threat to American security. The other is to go after the people that we don't want here. It is another exaggeration to say that this is blanket amnesty. It is not blanket amnesty, far from it.

We, like everyone else—the people that don't belong here because of felonious behavior, violence, drug smuggling, and breaking the laws of this Nation, those are the people that ICE should put its emphasis on and get rid of felons, as the President said, and not families.

The President did that order, much to the outcry of some colleagues of mine on the other side of the aisle—not all. I would never paint the whole Republican Conference with one brush, but there is a significant number that see the issue of immigration in a very different and clouded way.

That clouded way has to do more with ideology. It has more to do with the sense that it is us versus them and an insecurity about the changing demography of this country and what it means to the Nation. That insecurity is just sad, an insecurity not founded in fact and not founded on the immigrant history of this Nation.

As a first-generation American, I can tell you the pride and the values that I have were grown in this country, were nurtured in this country, and serving in this body could be the highest honor I could ever have. That story is repeated, day in and day out, for the history of this Nation, that the immigrant community has come to give and to contribute, not to take.

The President has wide latitude, as President, with executive orders. The court case, an injunction to hold the implementation of his executive orders in Texas, where a selection process chose this judge for his previous legal opinions and his previous public comments regarding the issue of immigration, that sided very much with the opponents.

I am totally confident—totally confident—that as we move up the chain of the Federal court system, that the constitutional authority that the President has for these executive orders, as previous Presidents had for executive orders, will be redeemed; and that lower injunction will be overturned.

In the interim, we continue to tell people in the undocumented community, immigrant community: Come forward, bring your documentation, begin to prepare yourself for an opportunity to be one of the people and families that qualify for this program.

What the President did with those executive orders is significant in many ways. Those executive orders began mending the social fabric of this Nation. One of the most divisive issues has been immigration, and maybe it is a good election ploy to continue to beat that horse dead in order to get elected.

In the long term, in the generational term of this Nation, it does nothing but divide us along very superficial issues. It divides us along the issue of race and divides us along the issue of language and country of origin. Those are not divisions for the social well-being of this Nation that we can tolerate.

Immigration reform is also about the domestic tranquility of this Nation and to heal that social fabric that has been ripped.

I also want to say that the Progressive Caucus, from the onset, has been a tireless advocate for comprehensive immigration reform, humane policies, family-centered reforms, and reforms that deal with the reality of what is around us and doesn't ignore it.

I am proud to be a member of that caucus and for its steadfast and unwavering support not only of comprehensive immigration reform, but of the President and his executive orders.

Five amendments were presented as part of the DHS bill, which were at the center of the controversy, and the ones that were eliminated so we could finally vote on a key piece of legislation.

One amendment, the Aderholt amendment, this amendment prohibits any funds or fees to be used to carry out the majority of the President's executive order, including DAPA and DACA.

Reality, fact, the prohibition is irrelevant and moot. All the cost of this program comes from the individual making an application. It is a fee-driven process. There is no specific allocation that this body has made to it or that the Department is making to it.

The Blackburn amendment, which I thought was of particular anguish to everyone, this amendment would end the DACA program, the DREAMer program for DREAMer children susceptible to deportation.

Let's say those almost 300,000, if not more, young people that are qualified under DACA, suddenly, with that amendment, would have that protection taken away and their status would now be back in the deportable status.

That amendment, in and of itself, does nothing for national security, does nothing to address the issue of a broken immigration system; but, indeed, adds a level of cruelty to the whole process of trying to solve this problem.

Preventing the President from being able to have new enforcement priorities, going after criminals and felons, as opposed to trying to break up families and deport families, one of the amendments was meant to stop that.

The Salmon amendment really made no sense. Undocumented people are not able and cannot receive and participate in the Affordable Care Act. Employers cannot register and have them employed, period, by Federal law. It was just to state the obvious and try to create an issue in which there wasn't one.

□ 1530

And there is no prioritization, where people under this executive order will be ahead of other people. There are two different processes: one is for a legal reprieve of protection that lasts up to the tenure of this President, and the

other one, naturalization and getting legal permanent status, continues to be a process. One process doesn't get in front of the line of the other.

I want to go back to one point. At some point, we are going to have to deal with the issue of immigration reform in a constructive, proactive way. And it is going to have to be dealt with because I think the economic security of this country is at stake; the domestic well-being and quality of life for this country is at stake; the economy is at stake; and the security is at stake; and if for no other reason, to look at the benefits of those areas in the discussion of comprehensive immigration reform.

We could continue on the path of making immigration reform and immigrants the cannon fodder in the 2016 election. We could continue to make immigration reform the collateral damage in any piece of legislation that is brought before this Congress, with the assumption that the individuals affected by these laws are not real human beings. We can continue to deny the obvious and the reality of this Nation, that when you have 11 million undocumented living, working amongst us, that the prudent, smart, and pragmatic thing to do is to deal with that issue and not exploit it or ignore it.

We have heard so much pandering to this issue. We have heard of disease being brought to this country, which was proven untrue. The young children that were in detention that came in that surge across the border 6, 7 months ago, their rate of infection was no higher than the rate of infection for children throughout this Nation. We have heard the pandering about terrorism coming over the border. Not one incident has been qualified as fact—that, indeed, that has become a pathway for terrorism.

The issue that somehow it is tearing at what America is, I think that is the most important point that we should take into consideration. ''From many, there is one'' is the motto that this Nation holds dear to itself, that all of us come here, and that by being here, we began to form this Union of ours, integrating the values, the aspirations, the rule of law, and the history of that Nation in making it one.

To continue to pretend that we can have a two-tiered society without consequences to the economy and the social well-being of this Nation is wrong. It is wrong for very humane and just reasons, but it is profoundly wrong on what this Nation is and what I learned and all of us have learned this Nation is and will continue to be: a nation founded on the rule of law, a nation founded by immigrants.

I also want to say—and I will say it as delicately and as carefully as I can—that the issue of immigration reform to many people who are citizens—maybe second and third generation whose original folks were immigrants who happened to be of color, who happened to come from a country of origin where the language and the culture were different from the mainstream of this Nation, whom it integrated fully and who have contributed to the defense and the well-being of this Nation—they feel that the constant drumbeat of accusation, of ''it is us versus them,'' of division, that this issue not only is an issue of immigration reform for the people who need it and for the Nation that needs it, but it is also an issue of civil rights, that no one should be profiled into a situation where they are less than someone else because of where their parents came from, because of the language that they spoke or the country that they came from or the color of their skin.

That is not America. And we continue to pander to those emotions, fear, as a means to score political points and possibly win an election here and there. That we do it at our own peril.

So for many generations of Americans that have served this country, the issue of immigration strikes us as an issue about our rights, our presence, our history, and our ability to proudly stand with anyone else and be as American as the next person.

With that, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for organizing this, and I thank her for the opportunity that she has granted me to be able to state some things that sometimes the confines of our debates here don't allow us to.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Thank you very much.

I am very grateful to my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona, for sharing his vast knowledge, experience, and dedication to such an important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am relatively new to this Chamber; but I must tell you that, as I have been working here and observing, I am always reminded of the fact that this is a nation of immigrants. This is a nation that was conceived of by immigrants. It was created by immigrants. It was made great by immigrants because all of our Founding Fathers who are responsible for the way this country operates and the way we operate this democracy came to this land from another land.

According to our polling that has been released by the Public Religion Research Institute in February, 77 percent of the country supports either a pathway to citizenship or permanent legal residency for undocumented immigrants. Only 19 percent want to enforce deportation. Citizenship is also favored over deportation in every single solitary State in this Nation, frequently by very wide margins.

In the last Congress, as my colleague from Arizona noted, the Democratic-led Senate passed legislation that would have provided that pathway for 11 million immigrants seeking the American Dream but currently living in the shadows. That bill also would have strengthened border security, something I hear my Republican colleagues argue about quite frequently. That measure passed with significant Republican support, 68–32 votes; yet our Speaker, Speaker BOEHNER, declared that that bill was dead on arrival in the House.

It is not just my constituents, it is not just Democrats that know it is time for a change on immigration. The American people are quickly reaching consensus that the American Dream should not be withheld and that there is nothing to fear from those who are seeking it.

The American people are beginning to understand that the absolutely deplorable rhetoric used to keep immigrants in the shadows is just that, rhetoric. The American people are starting to agree that our legacy as a nation of immigrants means that offering the same opportunities to new generations should be the order of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on my Republican colleagues right now to open the discussion on real immigration reform.

This, as I said, is a nation of immigrants, built by people who came from different worlds, seeking opportunities to change their futures. So we should be having a conversation about how we honor that legacy and protect the promise of the American Dream for a new generation that is ready to work hard, play by the rules, and seize it.

This is not a nation that will thrive by keeping our immigrants in the shadows. This is a nation right now that is just gaining traction and economic growth, with plenty of people still looking for employment and a government too burdened by austerity measures to provide any relief.

So we should be having a conversation about the economic benefits of comprehensive immigration reform and the extraordinary impact it would have on job creation and innovation. It is not just the right thing to do; it is the fiscally right thing to do; it is a morally right thing to do; and it is a timely thing to do.

We need to let go of our excuses and end the scare tactics. Let's get together and pass comprehensive immigration reform right now.

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

DESIGNATION OF FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114–15)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with language under the heading ''Coast Guard, Operating Expenses'' of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015