

Hundreds of thousands of Christians have been forced to flee. The United States needs to do what we can to save these Christian victims, as we have saved other refugees throughout our history.

Mr. Speaker, all of us who believe in religious freedom and tolerance need to stand up and state clearly that we won't sit quietly as a genocide takes place on our watch. I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring a resolution that I have here in my hand, that resolution declaring Middle Eastern Christians as targets of genocide and giving them priority for immigration and refugee status.

We have been silent already for too long. It is time for this body to make sure that our words are heard and our deeds are taken. This is a good place to start, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this resolution which I will now submit to the United States House of Representatives.

BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I and many of my colleagues had to hold our noses as we voted for a short-term continuing resolution. The CR, thankfully, did not cut funding to Planned Parenthood, which provided 2.7 million Americans—women, men, and youth—with medical services last year. But this CR is only good until December 11, and it leaves out funding for a vital program like the Ex-Im Bank. In less than 10 weeks, we will be right back here fighting against another government shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, do we really want to fail our military veterans, our seniors, our families, and our voters? I say no. Let's do the right thing. Let's do our job. Let's come up with a long-term budget that serves the American people, American businesses, and the American economy.

RECOGNIZING LOREN THORSON OF GREEN VALLEY, ARIZONA

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, we are called the people's House for a reason. We are sent to Washington to be the direct voices of our constituents back home. Last week, it was my honor to take action on an issue that was originally brought to my attention by one of my constituents from Green Valley, Arizona.

Loren Thorson served in World War II as a Navy commander. When he saw a report 5 years ago describing a little-known tax increase in the Affordable Care Act that is hurting families and is scheduled to hit seniors in 2017, he looked into it and knew something had to be done. He has sent letters, made

phone calls, written editorials, and done much more to raise the alarm about this little-known issue.

After hearing about this issue from him, my office has worked with Members from both parties in the House and in the Senate to move the issue forward and fix it. Those efforts resulted in my introduction last week of bipartisan legislation, with my lead, to repeal this tax hike and put Loren's ideas into action.

Mr. Speaker, this is how our government is supposed to work. I am grateful for Loren's tireless efforts to protect seniors and middle class families, and I will continue to work to advance his and my constituents' ideas in Congress.

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, for too long, this Congress has governed from one crisis to the next. Yesterday, when we were just hours away from another self-inflicted Washington wound, two news pieces were published that I would like to share: number one, the CEO of Honeywell, a company with a significant presence in my district, published an article about the economic damage of Congress' failure to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank; then Bloomberg published a story with the headline, "Boeing Risks Losing \$1.1 Billion Jet Order on Ex-Im Shutdown."

Washington gridlock is putting the jobs of thousands of Americans at risk. This includes hundreds of the people I serve in Rockford and the Quad Cities.

But today is a new day; it is a new month. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to turn over a new leaf of bipartisanship. Let's work together, reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank, and protect these good-paying manufacturing jobs before it is too late.

THE MEDICAL EVALUATION PARITY FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ACT

(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, just a few minutes ago, I cast an affirmative vote for the National Defense Authorization Act for 2016. However, I do have great concern over an important measure which was all but removed from the legislation we voted on today.

Earlier this year, I authored the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers, or MEPS, Act. The MEPS Act would improve military suicide prevention by instituting a mental health assessment for all incoming military recruits, which can be used as a baseline for evaluations throughout their military careers. The conferenced version of the NDAA merely calls for

the Department of Defense to continue to study such a screening.

Mr. Speaker, this issue has been studied thoroughly over the past several years. I strongly urge the Pentagon to act quickly to take steps in better assessing the mental health of our servicemen and -women with a commonsense baseline evaluation.

A recent Army study found that nearly one in five Army soldiers enter the service with a psychiatric disorder, and nearly half of all soldiers who tried suicide first attempted it before enlisting.

I call on the Pentagon to stop studying to death the death of our soldiers. Mr. Speaker, we need to act now.

THE BENGHAZI COMMITTEE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of respect for this institution that I have had the privilege of serving. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I am very grateful for the extent of our jurisdiction that embraces the Constitution, and I believe justice is important.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in great consternation, concern, and condemnation of the statement made by the Republican leadership that the Benghazi Committee is not for factfinding, it is not for recognizing the tragic loss of four Americans, but it is really to insult and degrade a public servant who happens to be a Presidential candidate. How tragic that we would engage in such tomfoolery. In spite of the Constitution and the Madison Papers, it talks about doing justice.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I was engaged in impeachment proceedings, the investigation of Waco, investigation of antitrust issues, held a trial for a judge who acted improperly, a Federal judge. That is the factfinding role of this Nation.

While we are fooling around with a committee that is there to do nothing but deal with political aggrandizing and we have not passed a Zadroga Act that helps our 9/11 first responders, I would only ask that we stop and end this committee because it is not doing justice as the United States calls us to do.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution gives us our guideposts. Why don't we follow it?

HONORING ARTHUR WILLIAM "BILL" BAILEY, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arthur William "Bill" Bailey, Jr., of Waco, Texas, who passed away on August 18, 2015.