

name is something that is iconic to all of us, left us, but his mother carries on the tradition, and it has made such a tremendous difference.

My colleague Henry Waxman, who is no longer in the Congress but is still a champion on HIV/AIDS, was so instrumental in leading us to passing that legislation.

So it has been bipartisan. It is global. It is personal. It is urgent that we continue so that, one day, 50 years from now, people will say, "What was AIDS? What was that?", and the books will show that it was a terrible, terrible tragedy that befell the world's population regardless of status, of wealth, of gender or of race, and something that is now buried in the news somewhere as a terrible memory but not a part of our future.

Again, as we observe World AIDS Day, may we all wear our red ribbons in sympathy with those who have lost their lives, sadly, before the science took us to a better place on this.

That is what we are counting on, research and science to take us to a better place on this, and also the enthusiasm, determination, and relentlessness of so many people throughout the world to make HIV/AIDS a horrible, horrible memory, again, but not part of our future.

□ 1045

THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY MUST EXTEND TO ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, like most Americans, I store a lot on my computer and on my phone: family photographs, personal calendars, emails, schedules, and even weekend to-do lists or, as my wife calls them, honey-do lists.

But this information stored on a phone, like the one I have here in my hand, is not private from the prying, spying eyes of government—our government. Most Americans have no idea that Big Brother can snoop on tweets, Gchats, texts, Instagrams, and even emails.

Anything that is stored in the cloud for over 6 months is available to be spied on by government as long as it is older than 180 days. Now, why is that? Well, it goes all the way back to the outdated Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986. That act protects privacy of emails that are less than 6 months old.

In 1986, those were the days before the World Wide Web even existed. Many of us have staff that weren't even born before 1986. We stored letters in folders, filing cabinets, and desk drawers. No one knew what the cloud was because the cloud did not exist. There was not any broadband, no social media, no tablets, or no smartphones. So, in 1986, lawmakers tried to protect emails but only did so for 180 days.

Under current law, every email, every text, every Google doc and Facebook message, every photograph of our vacation is subject to government inspection without a warrant, without probable cause, and without our knowledge if it is older than 6 months.

This is an invasion of privacy. Constitutional protection for 6 months only? That is nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

What is worse, some government agencies don't want the law changed. The Securities and Exchange Commission is lobbying to keep the same law on the books so they can snoop around in emails after 6 months without a warrant. The SEC is not even a law enforcement agency, but yet they want to keep the ability to look at emails.

I suspect they want to be able to read personal financial records and communications without a warrant. Spying on citizens by government sounds like conduct reminiscent of the old Soviet Union.

The SEC is not the only government agency that has access to emails over 6 months old. Any government agency can go in, confiscate emails that are older than 6 months without a warrant, without probable cause, and without knowledge of the person that they are snooping on. To me, this is a clear violation of the spirit of the United States Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, if we go back to the days of snail mail and you write a letter and you put it in an envelope and you put it in a mailbox and it floats around the country from place to place and finally ends up in somebody else's mailbox, government cannot go and grab that letter and search it without a warrant under most circumstances, no matter where it goes in the U.S., because it is protected. It is the privacy of the person who wrote the letter and the person who is receiving the letter.

Why should government have the ability to snoop around in our personal emails? They don't have that right, even though they have the ability to do so.

Mr. Speaker, the Fourth Amendment makes us, the U.S., different than any nation on Earth to protect the privacy of American citizens. Government agencies can't raid homes or tap into phones or read mail without showing a judge they have probable cause that a crime was committed. They must obtain a search warrant.

Mr. Speaker, I was a judge in Texas for 22 years, a criminal court judge, and saw 20,000 cases or more. Police officers would come to me at all times, day or night, with a search warrant. If it stated probable cause, I would sign the warrant, and then they would be instructed to go search whatever it was that they had probable cause to search.

That is what the Constitution requires before you can snoop around and spy on Americans. If you want to search, get a warrant. That is the rule under our law.

Why should our possessions and communications be less private because

they are online? Well, they shouldn't be. That is why I have teamed up with Representative ZOE LOFGREN on the other side and lots of other Members of Congress in both parties to introduce legislation to update the outdated ECPA law.

There are several bills pending. In fact, these bills have over 300 sponsors right now, bipartisan, to restore ECPA's original purpose to protect the privacy of American citizens.

This legislation would protect the sacred right of privacy from ever-increasing spying government trolls on Americans. Our mission is simple: extend constitutional protections to communications and records that Americans store online for any amount of time.

Mr. Speaker, technology may change, but the Constitution remains the same. Thomas Jefferson said in the Declaration of Independence, government is created to ensure our rights, not violate those rights.

It is about time we make government protect the right of privacy rather than violate the right of privacy. We need to pass this ECPA law and get privacy back in America.

And that is just the way it is.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEWART) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we face a new day, help us to discover the power of resting in You. Send Your Spirit down upon the Members of the people's House.

Grant them wisdom, insight and vision that the work they do will be for the betterment of our Nation during a time of struggle for so many Americans.

In extraordinary times, people from around the world are coming together and recognizing shared threats to peace and prosperity among all people of goodwill. May the men and women of this House emerge as leading statesmen and women to address issues that transcend the here and now of political tides.

Help them to identify policies that will redound to the benefit of our children and grandchildren.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOLD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

POSITIVE IMPROVEMENTS TO MENTAL HEALTH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans across the country know the benefits of evidence-driven mental health care; yet, our national mental health system has been harmed after years of bad policy.

Yesterday The Wall Street Journal stated, "As it happens, this month a House subcommittee passed one of the more consequential bills of this Republican majority—the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act. Recent mass killers have nearly all had some kind of mental illness; yet, few receive proper treatment. Representative TIM MURPHY spent more than a year investigating dysfunction and writing an overhaul."

I am grateful to be a cosponsor of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act developed by a dedicated professional, TIM MURPHY. This legislation helps States to modernize involuntary commitment laws and encourages assisted outpatient treatment for patients to remain active in their communities.

This legislation determines funding based on evidence-based care, putting critical resources into programs we know work, not into vague or untested theories. As the former president of the Mid-Carolina Mental Health Association myself, I appreciate this reform.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. May the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE POLICE TRAINING AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW ACT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the shocking video from Chicago showing the brutal shooting of Laquan McDonald by a Chicago police officer, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to pass H.R. 2302, the Police Training and Independent Review Act.

Congressman LACY CLAY and I introduced this bill earlier this year to stop local prosecutors from being tasked with investigating and prosecuting the same local police with whom they work so closely.

This is an inherent conflict of interest. What happened in Chicago is just the latest evidence that it needs to end.

If enacted, the Police Training and Independent Review Act would condition the receipt of full Byrne-JAG funding on States adopting laws to require independent investigation and, if necessary, prosecution of law enforcement officers in cases involving the use of deadly force.

If we are serious about restoring a sense of fairness and justice, we need to pass this bill and remove this conflict.

Law enforcement, police, and sheriffs have a tough job, a dangerous job, and they bring cases to DAs and serve as witnesses. This hand-in-glove relationship shouldn't be upset, but it also shouldn't upset justice.

We have seen charges brought against officers in certain cities, but more would be brought if there were independent prosecutions.

CONGRATULATING PRINCIPAL STEVE HOPE, 2015 INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Principal Steve Hope of Penn High School in Mishawaka for earning the 2015 Indiana High School Principal of the Year Award by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

For nearly 20 years Principal Hope has been more than just a teacher. He has been a mentor, support system, and friend to countless people.

His passion for education has been instrumental in preparing young Hoosiers for so much success later in life. Since he became the principal in 2008, Indiana's Department of Education has named Penn an A-rated school and a 4-Star Award winner.

He has taught students more than just curriculum. He has taught students life lessons they will remember forever.

On behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of Indiana, I

heartily want to thank Principal Hope for being an inspiration to students and teachers alike. His dedication to providing a quality education to each Hoosier that crosses his path is such an inspiration to all of us in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Penn High School Principal Steve Hope on receiving this prestigious award.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday my alma mater, South Park High School, made history as their football team, the Sparks, brought home the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Championship to Buffalo.

The Sparks played in front of a crowd of 3,000 at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse. The team capped off a record-breaking 12-1 season by defeating Our Lady of Lourdes by a score of 49-46.

The team's win was a storybook ending to a historic season. Most members of the team have been playing together since Little League, and this close-knit group became the first ever Buffalo City School to win a State championship.

I stand today as a proud South Park graduate to congratulate the team, coaches, parents, and Principal Terri Schuta, my friend and classmate, for claiming the State title for Buffalo and South Park High School.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S TIMID RESPONSE TO ISIS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is so disappointing that President Obama believes a climate change summit is somehow a rebuke of international terrorism. Think about that.

The President's timid response about how to take on ISIS and how to define our enemy has emboldened our enemy, radical Islamists extremists.

But he has not been timid in his response on global warming. At a meeting of world leaders right now in Paris, President Obama is choosing to pursue his climate change agenda instead of addressing how we are going to destroy ISIS.

In fact, our President seems to believe that global warming is a greater threat than international terrorism. It is clear, in the wake of the horrific attacks in Paris, that his priorities are gravely misplaced.

When discussing ISIS, the President reminded the Nation that "we've faced greater threats to our way of life before." True. But that doesn't change the fact that radical Islamic extremism is the threat we face now.