

BOKO HARAM

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on the hundreds of Chibok schoolgirls who were abducted by Boko Haram nearly 600 days ago. Some girls have been recovered, but many more are still missing.

Boko Haram is now the most dangerous terrorist organization in the world, killing more than 6,000 people in 2014 alone.

While our Nation and the world are reeling from the death and destruction ISIS has caused in recent weeks, we must not forget the terror that Boko Haram brings every single day.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud our government's efforts in helping provide Nigeria with the support they need to fight these militants. But there is more to be done. We cannot turn a blind eye to the destruction and bloodshed they have caused. We must continue to dedicate resources and support to wipe out the world's deadliest terror organizations.

There also needs to be a continuous effort to save so many lives from falling into Boko Haram's hands.

I thank Representative WILSON of Florida for leading the charge on this issue here in Congress. I am proud to stand with you in the fight to Bring Back Our Girls and stop Boko Haram.

PROPER PROCESS FOR THE 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to address the importance of passing the reauthorization of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, H.R. 1786, and this needs to be done as a standalone bill. The reauthorization of this bill is far too important to be rolled into a package at the end of the year.

Our country was attacked 14 years ago, and these Americans responded without hesitation. First responders are undoubtedly heroes in the eyes of America. They at least deserve to have their bill heard individually.

Five years ago, in the last days of the 111th Congress, this bill was passed. It was the last bill that Congress passed that year in the lame-duck 2010 year.

It is important that this bill be brought up. It is important that each of us put our cards in. Vote your conscience. Vote "yes" or "no." But we deserve a chance to vote on this bill as a standalone bill.

WORLD AIDS DAY

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of World AIDS Day and to honor those who labor to end its spread.

Today is the day to raise our awareness of HIV/AIDS and our unwavering fight against it. New infections worldwide are down 35 percent since 2000, and AIDS-related deaths have been reduced by 42 percent since 2004.

Though HIV and AIDS are now considered chronic illnesses, like with any chronic illness, first you must know that you have it in order to treat it.

We know that 35 million people are living with HIV/AIDS globally, and that is unacceptable. My own district, the Ninth District of Brooklyn, New York, has been particularly hard hit over the past three decades by HIV/AIDS.

Nearly 29,000 Brooklyn residents were living with HIV/AIDS since June of 2014. Over 30 percent of new HIV diagnoses in the first half of 2014 were made concurrent with AIDS diagnoses and years after infection. Surveys suggest that 40 percent of Brooklyn adults have yet to receive an HIV screening.

Mr. Speaker, in the first half of 2014, Brooklyn had the highest percentages of HIV/AIDS, so now is the time for us to act. Let us end HIV/AIDS. Help stop the spread today.

CADILLAC TAX LETTER

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to request the President's timely response to a bipartisan, bicameral letter from congressional Members willing to work with him to repeal the Affordable Care Act's tax on middle class families' healthcare benefits.

This month I joined House and Senate Members, both Democrat and Republican, to express our constituents' extreme concern about the 40 percent tax on employer-sponsored benefits coming in 2018. Public and private employers and employees tell me that the tax will cost jobs and incomes across New Hampshire as they cope with higher taxes and premiums.

Companies and municipalities are planning for the worst. Families will face lower wages and higher prices as organizations shift costs to pay for new taxes. Our coalition asks the President to meet with us as soon as possible so we can find a solution to this so-called Cadillac tax by the end of this year.

I would like to thank Senators HELLER, BROWN, and HEINRICH, as well as Representative JOE COURTNEY, for their help.

Mr. President, please respond to our request to work together. If we act now, we can avoid more unintended consequences of the Affordable Care Act.

WEAR RED WEDNESDAY

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Wear Red Wednesday to Bring Back Our Girls.

Boko Haram has been declared the world's deadliest terrorist organization. Boko Haram has actually murdered more people than ISIS. This means that Boko Haram's attacks are more lethal and more devastating than anything we have seen in the history of modern terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram's January attack on Baga was the second deadliest terrorist attack in modern history after 9/11. An organization capable of this level of death and destruction must be eradicated.

I urge Congress to pass my bill, H.R. 3833, which would require the U.S. Government to develop a regional strategy to assist Nigeria in defeating Boko Haram. Please continue to tweet, tweet, tweet #bringbackourgirls and remember to wear something red tomorrow, Wednesday, a tie, a pin, a flower. Just wear something red and tweet, tweet, tweet #bringbackourgirls, #joinrepwilson. Tweet, tweet, tweet.

IMPORTANT ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me say that I join my colleagues in asking for the James Zadroga bill to be passed in honor and tribute to our first responders after the tragedy and heinous terrorist act of 9/11.

And then, of course, today is World AIDS Day. I want to congratulate my constituents. I join the city of Houston, Harris County, in honoring the President's 2020 initiative, which is to encourage all of us to surge back into education and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

So many of us have lost too many. Today in my district as well, the Thomas Street Clinic and a number of other organizations will be acknowledging those who still live with AIDS. It is certainly our responsibility to fight to ensure the stopping of HIV/AIDS in this Nation.

I also rise to speak of the intelligence bill that will be on the floor today. What I would like to note is that I am glad that some of the issues have been resolved.

Particularly, I am concerned and glad that it will provide critical resources for the fight against ISIL, emphasize collection to monitor and ensure compliance with the Iranian nuclear agreement, which some have been very concerned about, that intelligence is very important, and as well it promotes foreign partner capabilities such as helping our allies in France.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, let me say my concern, however, still remains on