

demonstrated by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to reduce corruption and rebuild the economy.

Make no mistake, Afghanistan faces many challenges in the years ahead. But with the help of the United States of America, the international community, the tenacity of the Afghan leaders, and some good luck, the Afghan people can hope for peace and greater prosperity in the future.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT: NO CLIMATE CASUALTIES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, bullet holes are still visible in the walls of cafes, and the graves are fresh for those lives that were stolen by ISIS fighters in the streets of Paris. Meanwhile, the President is in Paris talking about his priority—the real threat—climate change.

While America has been unable or unwilling to defeat ISIS, it has been front and center in the war on climate change. Former CIA Director Mike Morrell said: “And we didn’t go after oil wells—actually hitting oil wells that ISIS controls because we didn’t want to do environmental damage. . . .”

The President has decided that the threat to the environment is more serious to him than the threat of ISIS terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, oil funds ISIS’ murderous reign of terror, but the President’s new limited war doctrine has one rule of engagement: no climate casualties.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for bombs to rain down over the ISIS war chest. Stop the flow of the blood oil. Not one more life should be lost because of a negligent and backwards strategy of a limited war based on climate change, an environmental-waged war that promotes not harming the environment over harming people.

And that is just the way it is.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House rose once again to observe a moment of silence for victims of gun violence, this time for the police officer, the veteran, and the mother of two who were gunned down in Colorado Springs nearly 3 years after 20 schoolchildren and 6 brave educators were shot to death at Sandy Hook Elementary School in my district. It is time for moments of silence to end. It is time for action.

Gun violence is a public health crisis that deserves this House to take action now. That is why we should establish a select committee on gun violence prevention.

We are all understandably concerned about terrorism; yet, this House just yesterday blocked action to prevent terrorists, those on the Terrorist Watchlist, from acquiring deadly weapons to kill Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this House to truly honor victims of gun violence. I invite my colleagues to join us next week for the 3rd Annual National Vigil to Prevent Gun Violence on Wednesday, December 9. The vigil will be held at St. Mark’s Church on Capitol Hill.

Please come and join me. Stand with the families and the victims of gun violence from my district and across the country.

RECIPROCAL DEPOSITS

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, to realize their American Dream, many Minnesotans rely on access to financial products like business loans and mortgages. Not only do these financial instruments benefit individuals and families, but they help build healthy communities.

Unfortunately, in some rural and urban areas, outdated regulations threaten the ability of our community banks to offer these important financial products.

Together with Congresswoman GWEN MOORE, I have introduced legislation that will address this problem. H.R. 4116 allows certain community banks to trade large bank deposits over a secure network.

This will enable depositors to do business with local community banks while still maintaining FDIC insurance instead of seeing important and necessary financial capital that could be used for local projects, purchases, and investment leave local communities.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is good for Minnesota. And please forgive my bias, but I happen to believe what is good for Minnesota is good for our country.

FIGHTING FOR WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are willing to shut down government in a battle to protect riders that hurt working-class Americans.

During these budget and appropriation debates, Republicans have fought tooth and nail to cut investments in important programs for working families, yet they are willing to spend billions on tax expenditures for wealthy corporations.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, they want to add riders that gut consumer protections, labor rights, environmental protections, and a woman’s right to choose.

A recent poll found that nearly seven in ten Americans agree with the fol-

lowing statement: “I feel angry because our political system seems to only be working for the insiders with money and power.”

As Members of Congress, I urge colleagues on all sides to come together and heed the American people’s wishes and to put their interests up front. We need to make sure that we can pass a budget bill that isn’t loaded up with policy riders and more things that would confuse the basic issues.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot abide proposals attacking the National Labor Relations Board and a worker’s right to organize. We cannot abide efforts to undermine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which is helping Americans meet their financial needs.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand up for the American consumer. I urge all parties to come together to reach these important goals.

RETIREMENT OF CHARLOTTE DIETRICH, POTTER COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR

(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, I rise today to congratulate Charlotte Dietrich on her upcoming retirement as planning director of Potter County, located in Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District.

Charlotte was promoted to that position in April of 2001 and had previously served as a secretary for Potter County.

In her more than 14 years as planning director, Potter County became the only county in Pennsylvania to have a Wellhead Protection Plan in place for each water authority in the county, mapping each source of water, which is perhaps our most important natural resource.

Additionally, under Charlotte’s leadership, the county’s planning department worked to address issues surrounding the development of wind power in the county, along with a huge expansion of gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation.

A Potter County commissioner recently called Charlotte a born planner. I know those skills have been a great asset for the county in the past decade with so many big changes.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Charlotte the best of luck in retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Houston, one of our Nation’s leading public research universities, on its recent string of success inside and outside the classroom.