

The University of Houston was designated as a tier 1 research university by the Carnegie Foundation, making it only one of three tier 1 public universities in Texas and one of only three Hispanic-serving institutions that are also tier 1 in the entire country.

For over 90 years, Mr. Speaker, the University of Houston has been providing affordable, world-class education to the people of Houston and Harris County and students throughout the country who come to U of H for its renowned academic programs and professional training.

Our Chancellor Khator is here today in Washington. Thanks to her team and our board of regents for their leadership.

The University of Houston Cougars is one of the top college football teams this season with an 11-1 record, ranked number 17 in the country, and can win the American Athletic Conference and go to a New Year's Day bowl game with a win this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, as a native Houstonian and a graduate of the University of Houston, it makes me proud to see our university succeed and continue to be one of the most important institutions serving our State, city, and our country. Go Cougars.

□ 1230

LET'S GET OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, let's get our priorities straight when it comes to American leadership. Rather than showing leadership in the fight against ISIS or reassuring our allies in this fight, our current administration is still claiming that our greatest threat to national security is, believe it or not, climate change.

I am all about science, but we need to be realistic as well. The biggest threat, according to them, isn't radical Islam, Russia, Iran, or North Korea. It is a couple of degrees Fahrenheit over the next century or so.

And the remedy is costly. At a cost to whom? At a cost to hardworking Americans. Their government mandates mean higher energy costs for families, less energy reliability, higher manufacturing costs, and smaller take-home paychecks.

I know that most Ohio families can't afford this, Mr. Speaker. Coal plants are already shutting down up and down the Ohio River, costing us jobs and reliable energy. We need American leadership that is willing to lead the fight and defeat ISIS.

This week, the House voted to protect American families and consumers from the administration's price hikes. Let's get our priorities straight, Mr. Speaker, and bring the fight to ISIS, not burden Ohio families.

PROTECT AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks in Paris reminded us that ISIS recruits fighters from across the globe and even here at home. Already, the FBI has arrested over 60 Americans connected with ISIS.

The terrorists who attacked Paris got their guns from the black market. But here in the United States, even suspected terrorists are allowed, under Federal law, to freely and legally buy assault weapons, buy guns, and buy explosives.

The GAO reports that, in the last decade, suspects on the FBI's terrorist watch list attempted to buy guns and explosives over 2,200 times. And guess what; 91 percent of the time they succeeded.

Now, I know that the gun lobby opposes any effort to toughen background checks; but can we not, at the very least, agree that this is a matter of national security, that when the FBI has reasonable suspicion that someone is connected to terror, we should stop him from buying weapons of mass murder?

To any of my colleagues on the floor today, is there anyone in Congress who actually believes that you should be able to buy a gun while on the terrorist watch list? Is there anyone in America who believes that?

If you are on the terrorist watch list, you shouldn't buy a gun. Can this body please take this meaningful step to protect American families. Let's put it to a vote, and let's do it before we leave here for the holidays.

HONORING OFFICER LLOYD REED

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and work of Officer Lloyd Reed, Jr., who will be remembered for his kind and helpful nature. Officer Reed, a St. Clair Township, Pennsylvania, police officer, was tragically shot and killed last Saturday, November 28, while responding to a domestic dispute.

A graduate of Conemaugh Township High School, he was an avid trout fisherman and a NASCAR and, of course, a Steelers fan.

Officer Reed courageously served his community as a law enforcement officer for 25 years before his life was taken. I offer my prayers and deepest condolences to his loved ones: his friends, his colleagues, and his wife.

All men and women who serve to protect us from harm deserve our deepest gratitude and respect. They choose to risk their lives so that the rest of us can lead peaceful, productive, and meaningful lives.

Officer Reed's life and death are a testament to all those who serve honorably as law enforcement officers.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

Last week, she posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor. Congresswoman Chisholm is truly deserving of this honor.

In 1969, she became the first African American woman to serve in Congress. She was the first majority party African American candidate and the first Democratic woman to run for President. She was also a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Congresswoman Chisholm—or Mrs. C, as we called her—was my mentor and role model. The course of my life changed, when I met Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, as a student in Mills College. At that time, I was the Black Student Union president, and I had invited her to speak her eloquent speech focused on the power of women and people of color to change the world. As she said: If you don't have a seat at the table, bring a folding chair. She explained why it was important for everyone to get involved in the policy-making process, because too often the voices of women and people of color are unheard.

I know that today many of us, including myself, would not be here. We would not have the privilege to serve in this great body had it not been for Shirley Chisholm. She is truly deserving of our Nation's highest honor.

I would also want to wish Mrs. C a very happy belated birthday. She would have turned 91 on the 20th of November.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S FINALIZED RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

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

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's finalized Renewable Fuel Standard, otherwise known as the RFS.

The biofuels industry has created good-paying, technical jobs in rural economies, helped lower gas prices for consumers, protected the environment, and reduced reliance on foreign oil.

On Monday of this week, the EPA finalized RFS levels for 2014, 2015, and 2016. While they are a slight improvement from the proposed rule, they still fall short of congressional intent put into law in 2007. Unfortunately, this decision raises questions about the administration's commitment to rural