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Lastly, I have had a long association with Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico, of course, is an integral part of the United States of America. Its citizens are citizens of the United States of America. Like other jurisdictions—whether they be in California or in New York or in the Midwest or the South or the North—who have from time to time found themselves in deep fiscal trouble, Puerto Rico now finds itself in that position.

I had the opportunity to talk a little earlier today with Chairman ROB BISHOP about the hearings that are going on in the Committee on Natural Resources this month with reference to Puerto Rico. I know that Speaker RYAN has indicated that we need to address this issue in an effective way by March 31. I very much appreciate his setting a goal and a timeframe for that.

Can the gentleman give me any additional information as to the status of consideration of Puerto Rico and extending it bankruptcy authority so that it might restructure its debt so that it doesn't undermine its school system, its public safety, its transportation, and other needs of its people?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Of course, as the gentleman from Maryland knows, Puerto Rico is facing a serious debt crisis and is in need of structural reform. That is critical. That is why our committee is starting the process of examining solutions. In fact, as the gentleman mentioned, next week, on January 12 at 10 a.m., the committee of primary jurisdiction, the House Committee on Natural Resources, led by Chairman BISHOP, as the gentleman mentioned, has the first hearing scheduled on this matter.

In keeping with Speaker RYAN's commitment to regular order, it is important that we allow the committees of jurisdiction to work through these issues to put forward the best solutions to a bad situation.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

I would reiterate to my friend, we really do look forward to working with your side of the aisle on addressing some of the critical problems that I mentioned, that you have mentioned, that Speaker RYAN has mentioned. We hope that those will be open, transparent, and inclusive so that all views can be heard. Ultimately, we hope that proposals and policies do come to this floor for a vote.

It is my understanding that the Speaker also wants to do the 12 appropriations bills, do them discretely, that is, one at a time, and bring them to this floor. We look forward to that process occurring as well.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. SCALISE. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I would just say, in the spirit of bipartisanship, at some point I would like to bring up some great blue crabs

from the Gulf of Mexico, and the gentleman can bring up some of those great Maryland blue crabs, and we can do a good taste test and enjoy some of our great cuisines and enjoy some good company.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that offer. I hope his feelings are not hurt when his crabs are left on the table.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 8, 2016 TO MONDAY,  
JANUARY 11, 2016

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, January 11, 2016, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRAT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING CHEROKEE TRAIL'S  
STATE CHAMPION VOLLEYBALL  
TEAM

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the girls varsity volleyball team at Cherokee Trail High School in Aurora, Colorado, for winning the 2015 Colorado 5A State championship game on November 14, 2015.

The students and staff who were part of the title-winning Cougar team deserve to be recognized for winning in what has been a season full of challenges. Following the tragic death of one of their players, Celeste James, and a serious injury to another, Amazing Ashby, the Cherokee Trail Cougars showed courage in the face of true adversity to complete their title-winning season which honored their teammates.

In their dominant performances at the State championship, the girls of Cherokee Trail High School's volleyball team proved that hard work, dedication, and perseverance is the perfect recipe for champions. These volleyball players were led to the championship title through the tireless leadership of their head coach, Terry Miller, and his outstanding staff.

It is with great pride that I join all of the residents of Aurora, Colorado, in congratulating the Cherokee Trail Cougars for their State championship.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIGADIER  
GENERAL DIANA HOLLAND

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to

congratulate Brigadier General Diana Holland for becoming the first female commandant at West Point.

I believe Brigadier General Holland's appointment comes at a very pivotal time in U.S. history, when the military pursues to fully integrate women into the military.

Last month, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced his and the services' decision to open all units to women. This decision would not only open 220,000 jobs for women that were previously closed to them, but it would also open the doors for more women to rise in the chain of command. I believe that we need that to happen in our military.

Servicewomen have bravely served our country in and out of combat. Finally, we will be giving them the recognition that they deserve. No longer will archaic policies limit the potential of capable and qualified servicewomen.

The talent and determination of our servicewomen will continue to strengthen our Nation's military, and I am proud to stand behind them.

RETIREMENT OF JOHN GUERRIERO

(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, this week marked the retirement of John Guerriero, who has covered politics for the Erie Times-News for more than three decades.

John joined the Times-News in 1981 after graduating from college. John's stories have focused on just about anything you can imagine, from local, State, and Federal politics, education issues, to stories involving court cases in Erie and those involving gambling.

With background on so many issues, it is common for John to follow up on action here in Washington with questions on how it might impact the Erie region.

Mr. Speaker, I have long followed his work in the newspaper, but I had the chance to truly interact with John in 2013 when he spent several days with Congressman MIKE KELLY and myself here on Capitol Hill. I was glad to talk with him about representing Pennsylvania's largest congressional district, and about how priorities and concerns across the district often lead to policies discussed here on the House floor.

I wish John the best of luck in retirement and congratulate him on a wonderful career.

I CANNOT BE SILENT

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call attention to the issue of gun violence that has seized our Nation. A little over a month ago, my hometown of San Bernardino fell victim to gun violence and was added to a

list that no community wants to join: Aurora, Newtown, Chattanooga, Charleston, and the list goes on. And that is the problem, the list goes on.

The only action Congress has taken to address the epidemic of gun violence has been to hold moments of silence in honor of their memory. As a father of two young boys and as San Bernardino's voice in Congress, I cannot be silent.

We owe it to our communities, from San Bernardino to Newtown, to do something. As one of the family members mentioned earlier in the week: "Congress has offered their thoughts and prayers, but thoughts and prayers are cheap when you have the power they have."

While one single law could not have prevented the horrific events in San Bernardino, that doesn't justify a refusal to take action to make our communities safer.

#### ISIS TROLL IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, terror has come to my hometown of Houston, Texas.

Yesterday, the FBI arrested 24-year-old Omar Saeed Al Hardan, a Palestinian born in Iraq who came to the U.S. as a refugee. He has been indicted for providing support to ISIS, a terrorist organization.

Al Hardan applied for full citizenship, and when he did, he lied on his application, saying he wasn't associated with terrorist organizations. The evidence shows that he is a troll for ISIS. Prior to coming to America, he had been trained to operate machine guns.

The administration says that the 31 State Governors who want to turn away unvetted refugees have no right to refuse them. That is why Senator CRUZ and I have introduced the State Refugee Security Act of 2015. This legislation will give State Governors the right, under the 10th Amendment, to deny the entrance of unvetted refugees to their State.

Congress must take immediate action to support those States that have refused to participate in the refugee resettlement program because of serious security concerns.

This case shows that the FBI Director was right. America cannot properly vet refugees. The interest of foreign refugees should not be more important than the safety of citizens in the United States.

And that is just the way it is.

#### DECEMBER JOBS REPORT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the jobs numbers released this morning are excellent.

This is a very strong way to end 2015. The numbers are a reminder of just how far we have come since the long, dark days of the Bush-era recession.

The economy added 292,000 private sector jobs last month. Businesses now have added jobs for a record 70 straight months. The unemployment rate stands at 5 percent, half of what it was at the peak of the recession, and the gains are becoming more broadly shared. The unemployment rate for African Americans fell 1.1 percentage points last month. It now stands at the lowest level since 2007.

Of course, there is much more that needs to be done. We must make sure that every American family benefits from this recovery. Some of my colleagues across the aisle will continue their efforts to cast doubt on the Obama recovery. I urge them to look at the numbers.

#### COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF STU WITT

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

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the retirement of Stu Witt.

Stu is retiring from the commercial Mojave Air and Space Port in Mojave, California. He started his career at CSUN and went on to a naval career where he flew F-14s off the *John F. Kennedy* and F/A-18s. He then followed it up by flying B-1s, F-16s, and the YF-23. But I knew Stu as a person who took the Air and Space Port in Mojave and put it on the map.

He talked to me early in my legislative career in California and said: I have got a bill. This bill has never gone anywhere. It has never even gotten a committee hearing, but I want you to run it.

So we did.

That bill turned into the indemnification law in California, which allowed private spaceflight to happen in California. Without that leadership, California would not be on the map for private spaceflight. I believe that today, without Stu Witt, California would probably have lost out to other States in the Union.

I would like to say as to Stu Witt's retirement: We know we are going to have great things in the future; we know what you have done in the past; and we look forward to your exploits for the advancement of aerospace in America.

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#### ABSURD COMMENTS ABOUT ABORTION

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, over the years, I have heard some rather absurd comments from my Republican col-

leagues about abortion. Some have compared Planned Parenthood to drug dealers, abortion factories, and the Ku Klux Klan. I have even heard grown men debate "legitimate rape" on live TV. I have even heard a Republican lawmaker put forth the claim that, if women are allowed to have abortions, men should be allowed to rape.

After nearly 30 years of public office, nothing really surprises me anymore, Mr. Speaker. So you can imagine my lack of astonishment when my dear friend and colleague from Wisconsin, SEAN DUFFY, rolled out abortion statistics among African American women to lecture Black legislators like myself about defending the welfare of our constituents.

Since the United States Supreme Court ruled in 1963 that women are guaranteed the privacy and power and right to make medical decisions concerning their own bodies, anti-choice legislators have been trying to end safe and legal abortion. A tactic that has been part of their strategy is to use inflammatory, racial arguments, and deceptive claims to stigmatize abortion in communities of color.

I don't expect Representative DUFFY to understand why his comments are offensive, but what he and so many of his Republican colleagues fail to acknowledge is the underlying context behind high abortion rates in African American communities.

High rates of abortion are related to poverty and lack of access to quality care. The war on women's health centers has resulted in multiple barriers to accessing quality, affordable health care, which could lead to higher rates of both unintended pregnancy and abortion.

Representative DUFFY's hypocrisy on this issue is as predictable as it is offensive. If he truly, truly wants to fight for the hopeless and voiceless, he should join us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin has expired.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. What is the rule on attacking personalities in the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. House rule XVII prohibits Members from engaging in personalities in debate.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Did the prior speech violate that rule?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot give an advisory opinion on that.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### PUTTING THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS FIRST

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