

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.

□ 1330

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.)