

While I am very proud of the victories I have been able to secure thus far for New York's First Congressional District, I have introduced a number of other bills that have now passed this House.

The Senate should act to pass all of the following bills:

My Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act, which is H.R. 4314. With the rise of terrorism across the world, the need for an improved security clearance process and increased border security has become even more apparent. The free movement of those who would commit horrific acts of terror is one of the greatest threats to America's safety, both at home and abroad. My bipartisan bill, H.R. 4314, would help close gaps in foreign borders by establishing international security standards while also guaranteeing that U.S. resources are utilized in the most efficient way possible wherever they are needed the most. H.R. 4314 would also put in place a monitoring system to screen for infectious diseases abroad, like Zika, in order to contain and prevent any potential outbreaks.

The Senate should also pass my three bills for our Nation's veterans: H.R. 2460, H.R. 1569, and H.R. 1187. One of my greatest priorities is ensuring that the veterans of our Armed Forces receive the treatment and benefits that they have earned and deserve. In Congress, I have introduced several pieces of legislation to provide for our heroes, including H.R. 2460, which would provide adult day health care for disabled veterans at no cost; H.R. 1569, to require the VA to pay accrued benefits to the estate of deceased veterans; and H.R. 1187, to eliminate the loan limit that the VA can guarantee for a veteran. Passing all these bills, all of which have received enormous support from Democrats and Republicans alike, are essential to increase our veterans care and assistance.

I also introduced a bill to save Plum Island: H.R. 1887. This island is a critical natural, cultural, and historical treasure that has been cherished by our local community since before the 1700s. Rather than allow the Federal Government to sell the island to the highest bidder, H.R. 1887 would safeguard the island from development to preserve this beautiful land, almost all of which is completely undeveloped. Additionally, we can ensure good-paying research jobs are on the island while allowing public access for more Long Islanders and others to experience this great land that is right in our own backyard.

Another one of my bills, H.R. 3070, would allow striped bass fishing off the coast of Montauk. Just this month, H.R. 3070 passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support. My bill would clarify Federal laws governing the management of the striped bass fishery in the exclusive economic zone between Montauk, New York, and Block Island, Rhode Island. Fishermen are desperately pleading for commonsense re-

lief, and the EEZ Transit Zone Clarification and Access Act is one way that Congress can help.

The Senate should act quickly on all of these essential pieces of legislation. I will continue doing everything in my power to bring home more victories for Long Island through my New Era of American Strength agenda.

□ 1030

A TIME COMES WHEN SILENCE IS BETRAYAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind this House that Martin Luther King, Jr. said: A time comes when silence is betrayal.

Early Sunday morning, 49 Americans were murdered and 53 wounded, gunned down at a gay nightclub in Orlando.

As a nation, we grieve for the 49 Americans who were taken from us that day. Our hearts and prayers are with their loved ones and with all those who were wounded. Yet while we grieve, we must also act. This heinous, hateful attack had three important aspects, each of which we must acknowledge and address. Orlando was a hate crime. It was a terrorist attack, and it was committed with a gun that this individual should never have had.

This terrorist attack was a hate crime, and if we ignore that brutal reality, if we are silent about it, then we disrespect the victims of this tragedy, their families, and LGBT Americans across this Nation. So let's be very clear. On Sunday, an individual set out to kill LGBT Americans simply because of who they are. It was a direct attack on the LGBT community in a place where they gathered for safety and fellowship, and it was an attack on the Latino and Hispanic community as well.

As the sister of a gay man, this attack is personal to me, but in reality, this attack is personal to all Americans. It is an attack on our families, our friends, our values. It is an attack on our diversity and our freedom. As Americans, we do not back down from our values. We unite around them. We do not respond to hatred with hatred.

Today it is more important than ever to stand up proudly against discrimination in all forms, whether it is based on sexual orientation, on gender identity, religion, race, or anything else.

This was also a terrorist attack that requires a counterterrorism response. We need to strengthen our intelligence efforts at home and abroad. At home we need to identify potential lone wolf attackers and stop them before they become radicalized. Our political leaders, or those seeking to become political leaders, need to stop singling out Muslim Americans for hatred and violence.

Targeting Muslim Americans with violence and discrimination isn't just un-

American; it makes our entire Nation less safe. It gives ISIS a recruiting tool to radicalize individuals in this country and around the world. It puts families in this country in greater danger, and it puts our troops at greater risk. We need the Muslim communities throughout this country that are standing up against terrorism and against dangerous radical perversions of their faith. We rely on their cooperation to identify potential attackers before they attack.

Finally, we need to close the gaping hole in our laws that allow suspected terrorists who are on the FBI's terrorist watch list to walk into a store and buy a firearm. This issue is only controversial in this House and in Congress. Among our constituents, it is common sense. If you are too dangerous to fly, you are too dangerous to own a gun. Quite simply, no fly, no buy.

The time for silence is over. We in Congress have a sworn obligation to protect the people of the United States. Every day we fail to act is a failure to carry out our most basic duty.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 1076, the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the House is in session solely for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate. Therefore, that unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I will stand here for the remainder of my time to protest the appalling silence of this House and its refusal to act in the face of this terrorist act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

REMEMBERING JERRY McCLOSKEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 24, Laguna Niguel councilman and former mayor Jerry McCloskey passed away unexpectedly.

Jerry, a United States Navy veteran, continued his service to the military and his community through his volunteer work with Laguna Niguel Military Support Foundation and the American Legion Post 281. He was also involved in the local Rotary Club, Lions Club and Historical Society, and served as the president of the Orange County Watershed and Environmental Center.

I met Jerry when I ran for city council in 1996, and in all the years I knew Jerry, he truly exemplified what it means to serve. He will be sorely missed.

Jerry leaves behind his beloved wife Marilyn, his two daughters, and his four grandchildren. We join them in their mourning and hope that they can find comfort in knowing that his impact on the Orange County community will live on for decades to come.