

STATESVILLE IS A GREAT PLACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the city of Statesville, North Carolina, which was recently named one of North Carolina's Great Places by the State's American Planning Association chapter.

The Great Places in North Carolina program honors the best planning efforts in the State. The selected cities are celebrated for their active main streets and serve as models for vision, partnerships, and collaboration.

Statesville is a dynamic town located in the foothills of North Carolina at the intersection of Interstates 77 and 40. Its vibrant main street is the intersection of Center and Broad Streets, which is known affectionately as "The Square."

The Square serves as the center of this charming community known for its beautiful buildings, historic homes, terrific quality of life, and incredibly friendly people. The 223-year-old city boasts a variety of retail, dining, and entertainment options, with art at every corner. It is an honor to represent Statesville in North Carolina's Fifth Congressional District.

HONORING THE ORLANDO
SHOOTING VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the overwhelming grief that America now feels warrants this body to continue to offer our sympathies and concern to those families now in the most dire of conditions; that is, those families whose loved ones are no more, who died on what was to be a joyous occasion, socializing, as we do as Americans, and those families who are hovering over sickbeds for those who are injured.

I rise this morning to again give them my sympathy and my respect. What the American people want to see from this body is action.

I rise as well to pay tribute to the LGBTQ community all over the Nation. In my hometown of Houston, Texas, over these last tragic days, we have come together with them and the Muslim community. The Muslim community is making a very strong stand that they stand with those fallen and killed, those who were part of the LGBTQ community. The Muslims were strong. They were Americans. They were prayerful. They were imams, and they were civilians.

We prayed. We heard from a Catholic deacon. We heard from a Christian Presbyterian minister in a press conference when we came together on Sunday in the midst of the unbelievable. We came together in Houston and advocated for unity and respect. We quoted scriptures that said to love one another.

We joined President Barack Obama in taking the moment not to politicize but to speak that we must come together. Calling names and defining what a radical religion is or not will not answer any question. It may make some feel good, but it will not answer for the basis of the violence of Mr. Mateen.

I do believe that the American people are mourning and giving our love and letting them know that they are not alone; they will not walk this place alone. I use that because I listened to that rendition by an Orlando choir as the names and faces of the 49 were shown on television. In the quietness of my office, the emotion was overwhelming.

So I think it is immoral. It is clearly a response to the depravity of this Nation if my colleagues cannot come together and do something this week. Ban the assault weapons. Join us in recognizing that this is not a violation of the Second Amendment. Pass the no fly, no buy bill. If you are on the terrorist watch list, why are you getting assault weapons?

Then H.R. 5470, introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman BROWN, the Representative of Orlando—where the tragedy and terrorist act occurred—and myself, gives added tools to the FBI that says that if you have had any encounter with Federal law enforcement, as you purchase a gun, you must make that known so that it can be a trigger; and if you do not respond, you still must have that reported to the FBI so that a thorough investigation can be had.

I don't believe that we can leave this week without answering the concerns of the American people. I make a plea to organizations that we know have consistently stood in blocking the door of sensible, responsible gun safety legislation, to go on their knees and pray for humility and guidance and to be able to seek some other place of responsibility than their own selfish interests.

Dead people cannot speak. Their families are overwhelmed with grief. The injured are filled with grief and are trying to recover.

This Congress must pass the no fly, no buy bill. It must pass a ban on assault weapons. It must enhance the various tactics that our law enforcement can have to stop a heinous terrorist and horrible killing—a massacre, a slaughter.

Mr. Speaker, I say that we will be in the band of the immoral if we do not do something today. To those who mourn in Houston, I wish I could be with you. I thank the mayor and all of those who will come together this evening. My spirit is with you. I love you.

JOSEPH MUSSOMELI ARTICLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Joseph Mussomeli spent 35

years in the U.S. Foreign Service, including serving as our Ambassador to both Cambodia and Slovenia.

Ambassador Mussomeli wrote a column for The Washington Post, which, frankly, I am very surprised that the paper published in its June 10 edition. I would like to quote at length from this very important column.

Ambassador Mussomeli wrote as follows:

Most of my former colleagues at the State Department will be appalled by the assertion, but much of the media-fed angst about Donald Trump's dearth of foreign policy expertise is contrived.

Our cadre of neoconservative foreign policy experts, unhumbled after marching us into a reckless war in Iraq and a poorly conceived one in Afghanistan, who applauded as we bombed Libya and bitterly resent our having failed to bomb Syria, are frightened.

Wisely, they often focus on comments that Trump has made on issues that are of less genuine interest to them. But what really troubles them is his generally level-headed and unmessianic attitude untoward foreign affairs. Trump has no desire to make the rest of the world in our image.

The neocons bemoan Trump's rejection of a global role for the United States, but Trump has no intent to withdraw the United States from the world stage. He only rejects the wanton use of our young men and women on foreign adventures of questionable value.

The neocons have two clear foreign policy objectives, and Trump may grant them neither. For many of them, their deepest yearning is an air campaign against Iran.

Trump doesn't like the Iran nuclear agreement, but his instinct is to make a better deal rather than attacking, while Hillary Clinton has a strong record of supporting the prodigal misuse of military force.

Clinton is just another neocon, though wrapped in sheep's clothing. But clothing makes a huge difference. Most Americans don't want the United States to be disrespected, and they want a muscular military that doesn't take any nonsense—but they also don't want military adventurism.

Trump succeeds in having it both ways: he reassures that the United States will be respected and also that we will not employ our troops as cannon fodder on distant battlefields.

Underneath all the tirades against illegal immigration and the need to be tough with our adversaries, there is an inward focus. There is a sense that America—in order to be great again—needs to relinquish its role as global cop and tend first to its needs at home.

By sounding caustic, Trump is able to appear more militaristic and tougher than the far more reckless Clinton. Calculating and cavalier, Clinton would agree with her old pal, then-U.N. Ambassador Madeline Albright, "What's the point of having this superb military . . . if we can't use it?" The stern rebuke to that question later provided by General Colin Powell that the military is not a toy is lost on the neocons and Clinton. Among Clinton's weaknesses, her fear of appearing weak may be her most damning.

The second neocon priority? A new cold war with Russia. Vladimir Putin, unlikable and increasingly uncooperative and antagonistic, admittedly makes this objective more within reach, but Trump might avoid it as well. Clinton repeats over and over that Russia only understands a tough and determined opponent, while Trump may have a more sophisticated and mature approach.

Far less petulant than most of the former Republican candidates, Trump says he would

actually talk with Putin. That takes real courage, given the general view among Republican elites.

Contrast that with Clinton, who thinks we should not be talking too much to Putin and that we ought to further expand NATO because, in her view, Russia would be an even greater threat had it not been for NATO expansion. Of course, to admit that NATO expansion triggered the current crisis would be admitting that her husband is largely responsible for it.

Trump seems to understand George Kennan's warning that NATO expansion would directly lead to a more paranoid and aggressive Russia.

Trump, for all his bizarre commentary on domestic issues, better grasps the subtleties of global politics and the dangers of thinking ourselves infallible and invincible.

It is quite an irony: The ostensibly more reckless, infantile, inexperienced and bombastic candidate may actually be more mature, level-headed, and reasonable on foreign policy than his critics who, against all the good advice our parents gave us as children, pout and refuse to talk to those they don't like, escalate arguments to violence when they are upset, lack any remorse for the harm caused by their past opinions and actions, and fail repeatedly to see that there might be two sides to any disagreement.

Mr. Speaker, I think these words of Ambassador Musson should be considered very seriously by all of our Members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

The following proceedings were held before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2016 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Martin Frost, Secretary of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8:30 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of history, we thank You for this day when former Members return to Congress to continue in a less official manner their service to our Nation and to this noble institution.

May their presence here bring a moment of pause, where current Members consider the profiles they now form for future generations of Americans.

May all former Members be rewarded for their contributions to this constitutional Republic and continue to work and pray that the goodness and justice of this beloved country be proclaimed to the nations.

Bless all former Members who have died since last year's meeting. May their families and their constituents be

comforted during a time of mourning and forever know our gratitude for the sacrifices made in service to the House.

Finally, bless those gathered here, that they might bring joy and hope to the present age and supportive companionship to one another. Together, we call upon Your Holy Name now and forever.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARTIN FROST led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. FROST. The Chair is happy at this point to recognize the distinguished Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. First of all, welcome everybody. I see a lot of familiar faces, a lot of folks I served with, people I know who came here before I served.

I came here when I was 28, in 1998, and never thought I would be doing what I am doing. And it is just funny how this place can work its will.

I would say a couple of things.

I grew up with mentors. I lost my dad when I was young, so I went from mentor to mentor to mentor. When I came here to this job at a young age, I had a lot of mentors. Jack Kemp was my original mentor, who taught me about public service and politics and policy. A lot of you, like Jim, you served with Jack; you knew him well from the delegation and the rest.

But then when I came here, I had mentors. I don't know if McCreery is here or not. Jim is a part of the organization, I assume; right? So Jim McCreery.

Bill Thomas was a mentor of mine. Even though that is hard to imagine, he really was because he taught me to be scrutinous, how to really pay attention to detail.

I see Tim Petri is here. Tim Petri was a mentor. He taught me kindness. He taught me how to relate to people. He taught me how to be like a nice person and still be a nice person after years in Congress. I try.

But all I would say is it is great to have you home. So welcome home.

I look at you, and I see relaxed faces. I see the lines have kind of gone away. I see happy people. I see people in a great phase and stage of life. So know that when we see you, it gives us happiness and hope because we know that, in the mix of the day and all the tumult we go through around here, a lot of this is just a tempest in the teapot; a lot of this is just noise that doesn't take us off the horizon where we are all going to.

So I would say a couple of things. Thank you for being the mentors you have been, on behalf of the people you have been mentored to, number one. Number two, thank you for your passion and for keeping your dedication to the causes you believed in and the causes you came here to fight for.

I came young, idealistic, you know, thinking I kind of knew everything. And then as time got on, in the ninth term, I realized discernment, temperament, and just good judgment is what matters the most. And I realized that there is so much we have yet to learn from people who have walked the same path and have been in the same kind of shoes. And because you are here giving the rest of our Members—on our side of the aisle, 65 percent of our people are first- or second-termers. So we have so many new people for whom it is important that they learn from those who have been through this. It is important that you make new friendships with new people so that they can get a little discernment and get a little wisdom from your pearls that you can drop them. So thank you for being here and being involved in doing that. Please mentor some of our folks.

And the last point I would say is just thanks for showing that this life of public service continues on in a very graceful way, in a very relaxing way, in a way where you can really be in control of your own destiny in your own time. I mean, probably you look back at this and you remember time was my problem, time management, having time to do this, having time to do that. That is one of the big frustrations of the day to day around here. And just knowing that you can get back in control of your own time and your own life after these days of public service, that, to me, is very comforting. It is a very comforting thought.

So your presence helps our Members kind of get their keel, get their groove, get their sense of peace and calm so that they can focus on what is really important and not get distracted by the things that knock us off our game. So all I would say is welcome. It is great having you, and thanks for doing what you do. I appreciate it.

Mr. FROST. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, we all wish you well in the months ahead.

The Chair recognizes the distinguished Democratic whip, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I am glad I got here to hear the Speaker talk a little bit. And I am so glad that you guys have brought calm and consideration to us junior Members. I happen to be one of the old junior Members, as all of you know—I am older than some of you—but I am still here.

Mr. FROST. We wish you a happy birthday.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you so much.

I always loved so many of you with whom I had the opportunity to serve.

I remember a time many years ago when I got into the Members' elevator on floor seven, which my office is on floor seven in the Longworth. I have got an office here, too, obviously, as you know. But anyway, this young kid gets on, tall, dark, nice-looking kid got on, and I sort of looked at him and wondered who he was. He thought I was looking at him as if he shouldn't be on