

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