

The complete lack of consistent training standards, the different standards for identifying individuals that are too dangerous to carry, the uncertainty of a document's validity, and the exposure of agencies and police officers to civil liability create unacceptable risks to our nation's 900,000 police officers and the public at large. We reject the idea that one state's approach to carrying a concealed firearm will work across the country. States and localities should maintain their rights to legislate concealed carry laws that best meet the needs of their citizens.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence urges you to respect and defend state laws while protecting and supporting our nation's police officers by opposing H.R. 38 and S. 446. Thank you for your support.

The Partnership Includes: Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA), International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE), National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), Police Foundation (PF).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the letter, in part, states that the bill will create unacceptable risk to our Nation's 900,000 police officers and the public at large.

The Fraternal Order of Police has come out in opposition to a similar bill in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the police are telling us that it is dangerous to them and the public safety at large.

So why is the majority pushing it so hard?

Because, once again, the majority is putting the NRA's agenda above the lives of Americans and our law enforcement officers. This is simply unacceptable.

Why are we considering a bill that puts our officers at greater risk? Why should we take up legislation that we know will increase the number of gun deaths, including among law enforcement officers? Why would we make a dangerous job more dangerous just to satisfy the NRA?

Why is it cosponsored by one of my colleagues who demanded that a painting be taken down for disrespecting law enforcement, but he is willing to cosponsor a bill that puts their lives at greater risk?

I guess it is easier to complain about a picture than stand up to the NRA.

Mr. Speaker, once again, the NRA's checks are influencing this House. The victims of gun violence should matter more than their dollars.

Dollar 209, Deputy Sheriff Robert French, end of watch, August 30, 2017;

Dollar 210, Officer Miguel Moreno, end of watch, June 30, 2017;

Dollar 211, Trooper Joel Davis, end of watch, July 9, 2017;

Dollar 212, Agent Roberto Medina-Mariani, end of watch, September 11, 2017;

Dollar 213, Captain Bryon K. Dickson, II, end of watch, September 12, 2014;

Dollar 214, Special Agent Michael T. Walter, end of watch, May 27, 2017;

Dollar 215, Corporal Stephen J. Ballard, end of watch, April 26, 2017;

Dollar 216, Officer Miosotis Familia, end of watch, July 5, 2017;

Dollar 217, Lieutenant Kevin Mainhart, end of watch, May 11, 2017;

Dollar 218, Lieutenant Patrick Weatherford, end of watch, June 12, 2017;

Dollar 219, Sergeant Richard "Sam" Howard, end of watch, August 19, 2017.

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Dollar 220, Deputy Sheriff Mason Moore, end of watch, May 16, 2017;

Dollar 221, Chief Steven Eric DiSario, end of watch, May 12, 2017;

Dollar 222, Master Sergeant Debra Clayton, end of watch, January 9, 2017;

Dollar 223, Deputy Sheriff William Durr, end of watch, May 27, 2017;

Dollar 224, Officer Eric G. Kelly, end of watch, April 4, 2009;

Dollar 225, Officer Gary Michael, end of watch, August 6, 2017;

Dollar 226, Corrections Officer Curtis Billue, end of watch, June 13, 2017;

Dollar 227, Agent Benjamin De los Santos-Barbosa, end of watch, April 21, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I will jump to dollar 234, Trooper Damon Allen, whom we just heard about, end of watch, November 23, 2017.

We cannot let this bill pass. If we pass H.R. 38, that number will, tragically, grow.

Dollar 228, Officer Sean Clark, end of watch, March 31, 2007;

Dollar 229, Deputy Sheriff David Wade, end of watch, April 18, 2017;

Dollar 230, Lieutenant Aaron Allan, end of watch, July 27, 2017;

Dollar 231, Assistant Chief Deputy Clinton Greenwood, end of watch, April 3, 2017;

Dollar 232, Deputy Sheriff Mark Burbridge, end of watch, May 1, 2017;

Dollar 233, Officer Justin Terney, end of watch, March 27, 2017;

Dollar 235, Officer Alyn Beck, end of watch, June 8, 2014;

Dollar 236, Detective Sean Suiter, end of watch, November 16, 2017;

Dollar 237, Officer Justice Leo, end of watch, October 21, 2017;

Dollar 238, Officer Marcus McNeil, end of watch, October 13, 2017;

Dollar 239, Officer Stephen Mayhle, end of watch, April 4, 2009;

Dollar 240, Officer Floyd East, Jr., end of watch, October 9, 2017;

Dollar 241, Corporal Michael Paul Middlebrook, end of watch, October 1, 2017;

Dollar 242, Detective Kristen Hearne, end of watch, September 29, 2017;

Dollar 243, Officer Igor Soldo, end of watch, June 8, 2014;

Dollar 244, Officer Matthew Baxter, end of watch, August 18, 2017;

Dollar 245, Officer Paul Scullo, end of watch, April 4, 2009;

Dollar 246, Officer Deriek W. Crouse, end of watch, December 8, 2011;

Dollar 247, Deputy Sheriff Dwight Darwin Maness, end of watch, September 14, 2015;

Dollar 248, Officer Jeff Shelton, end of watch, March 31, 2007;

Dollar 249, Officer Thor Odin Soderberg, end of watch, July 7, 2010;

Dollar 250, Officer Brian David Shaw, end of watch, November 17, 2017.

Every year, more and more officers die from guns in the line of duty.

#### RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT GILBERT HOWLAND

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Master Sergeant Gilbert Howland of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, one of my constituents and a member of Merrill's Marauders.

Merrill's Marauders was a top-secret unit of commandos who served behind Japanese lines in Burma, China, and India during World War II. The men of this magnificent unit volunteered to serve and faced some of the most vicious and consistent fighting of the war. Their commitment to service stands as a profound example of sacrifice for our Nation.

Master Sergeant Howland was an NCO in charge of 16 men and two heavy weapons in this unit. After being discharged in 1945, Ranger Howland did not sit idly by. Instead, he reenlisted to serve in Korea and for two tours in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, Master Sergeant Howland and the rest of the brave men in Merrill's Marauders should be recognized. I am proud to support H.R. 667, which seeks to award the Congressional Gold Medal to World War II's Merrill's Marauders.

#### WHAT MY CONSTITUENTS EXPECT OF ME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I love my country.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, because I refuse to stand idly by as a billionaire bigot does irreparable harm to my country—a billionaire bigot who tolerates the KKK but won't tolerate Islam; a billionaire bigot who tolerates anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia, and homophobia.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the consequences will be, but I do know this: the people who sent me here sent me to this Congress to fight hate, not to tolerate, not to mitigate, but to eliminate hate. The people I represent have an expectation of me.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the vote will be, but I do know this: Next week, there will be a vote to impeach. Next week, there will be a resolution brought before the Congress, and there will be a vote to either table it, send it to committee, or vote it up or down.

That is what the people I represent expect me to do, and I will do no less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

## NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Adoption Month, to encourage adoption and improvements in our foster care system across this land. Currently, there are roughly 428,000 children in America's foster care system, and nearly 112,000 of those children are waiting to be adopted into safe, permanent, and loving families.

According to Arkansas State data, the number of foster youth has outpaced the number of spots available in foster homes by over 1,200 children. Organizations around the State have been at the forefront of recruitment efforts for our foster families.

One such organization is The CALL, locally directed by Lauri Currier. She notes that a stable, loving home can make a huge difference in a child's life, specifically with regard to escaping the grasp of neglect and abuse.

I am proud to work with our majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, and my colleagues on the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth to shed light on the perpetuation of poverty and dysfunction in our current system. We all must continue to work together and move forward in addressing our foster care system, and I emphasize Ms. Currier's statement on the importance of a loving home for every child.

## HONORING JUDGE TOM EISELE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of our Nation's great lawyers and judges and, for me, a mentor and a great family friend, District Court Judge Tom Eisele, who passed away this past Sunday at the age of 94.

Tom faithfully served our Nation as a private in the Army in World War II; as an adviser to Governor Winthrop Rockefeller in the 1990s; and for the past 41 years as a member of the Federal judiciary, following his appointment by President Nixon in 1970.

During his career, Judge Eisele was named Best District Court Judge in the Eighth Circuit by The American Lawyer and Outstanding Federal Judge by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He was a role model and a friend to many across the State of Arkansas and our Nation.

I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his friends, family, and loved ones.

## LOVE LITTLE ROCK INITIATIVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce's "Love Little Rock" initiative.

This initiative is intended to both attract new business and encourage residents to become "Love Little Rock" ambassadors by sharing their pride using the #lovelittlerock hashtag.

As a part of the campaign, the Little Rock Regional Chamber created the lovelittlerock.org website to highlight the numerous advantages of doing busi-

ness in Arkansas' capital city. Led by Jay Chesshir, president and CEO of the Little Rock Regional Chamber, and Mayor Mark Stodola, this initiative is a powerful instrument for community development and business recruitment. Mayor Stodola proclaimed October 19 as Love Little Rock Day.

I extend my thanks to the city of Little Rock for spearheading this campaign. As a native son, I am proud to "Love Little Rock."

## HAITI'S TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my outrage over the administration's unconscionable decision to terminate Haiti's temporary protected status designation on July 22, 2019.

This decision, which came just days before Thanksgiving, will force over 50,000 Haitians to return to a country that is still struggling to recover from the devastating effects of the 2010 earthquake and reeling from a cholera epidemic and food insecurity caused by Hurricane Matthew that decimated Haiti's agricultural sector.

Although Haiti has made extraordinary strides to overcome the impact of the deadly earthquake and subsequent events, including the cholera epidemic, food insecurity crisis, and Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, and Maria, it has killed over 10,000 people and hampered the recovery efforts.

The devastation of these events should have made the decision to redesignate Haiti for 18 months without setting an end date an easy call, a no-brainer. However, last week's disastrous decision to terminate Haiti's TPS status did not occur in a vacuum.

In the past few weeks alone, this administration has also announced its decision to terminate temporary protected status for Nicaragua and Sudan. These actions demonstrate the administration's clear departure from the bipartisan consensus that has always surrounded the TPS program which exists to protect human life. Instead, this administration has chosen to sow fear and division in our society to distract from its failed policies that benefit the wealthy at the expense of the vast majority of Americans.

Faced with this clear and credible threat, we must come together to pass bipartisan legislation that protects all TPS-eligible individuals from being forced to return home to countries experiencing famine, natural disaster, and outright civil war. That is why I have worked with Representatives ROSLEHTINEN and JAYAPAL to introduce the bipartisan ASPIRE-TPS Act, which would provide meaningful protections to all TPS-eligible individuals.

I urge my colleagues in this body to cosponsor our legislation. I also urge House leadership to bring it to the

floor for a vote as soon as possible so that we can grant meaningful protection to the 300,000 TPS-eligible individuals at risk of being sent back to life-threatening conditions abroad. Now is the time to act for the sake of 300,000 TPS-eligible individuals and our standing in the world.

## CIA RELEASES DOCUMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration recently made the important decision to release hundreds of thousands of documents in the possession of the CIA which were found in the May 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan. These documents reveal a much more intimate relationship between Iran and al-Qaida than previously suspected.

While it will take time to analyze the extent of the 470,000 documents, some important conclusions can already be made:

The Obama administration selectively released 571 of these documents during his term, none of which identified the significant relationship between Iran and al-Qaida.

While President Obama claimed al-Qaida was "on the path to defeat," these documents showcase al-Qaida strategically reorganizing its operational base. One of these documents describes Iran as al-Qaida's "main artery for funds, personnel, and communications," and instructs members to "refrain from attacking Iran and devote your total resources . . . to the fight against the crusaders and the apostates."

On the one hand, al-Qaida would publicly declare all Shiites to be apostates; on the other hand, internal deliberations by the organization called for a transactional relationship with the mullahs of Tehran.

Another finding in a 19-page document written by senior al-Qaida operative Abu Hafis al-Mauritani outlines a detailed arrangement between al-Qaida and Iran. The relationship between al-Qaida and Iran was based on their mutual hatred of the United States. Iran agreed to provide shelter, financial support, and coordinate efforts with al-Qaida across the region.

In this document, a senior al-Qaida operative confirms that Iran and al-Qaida's "interests intersect." He goes so far as to describe the Iranian regime as "the best example . . . of pragmatism in politics. Anyone who wants to strike America, Iran is ready to support them with money and arms and all that is required as long as they are not directly and clearly implicated."

Iran offered al-Qaida everything it needed, including "money, arms," and "training in Hezbollah camps in Lebanon, in exchange for attacking U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf."