

Criminal Court, which directly disrupts the peace process.

Unfortunately, the PLO's efforts to subvert the International Criminal Court were advanced when former President Barack Obama refused to stand up for Israel in the U.N. Security Council.

While the PLO condemns Israel, it is, shamefully, paying payments to families of suicide bombers and terrorists as rewards for mass murder. Hakim Abard, who murdered five members of an Israeli family, receives \$14,000 a year from the PLO. The family of the murderer of American Taylor Force received benefits as a reward for that murder.

The administration had provided the PLO the opportunity to remain when their waiver lapsed, but, unfortunately, the PLO continues to sponsor violence against innocent American and Israeli citizens. President Trump made the right decision.

Our prayers for the people threatened by Hurricane Florence, with our appreciation for the first responders who are protecting American families in the tradition of 9/11.

ETHICS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, President Trump attempted to drain the swamp, but his administration has only accelerated the revolving door between the executive branch and industry lobbyists.

Last week, I introduced a bill to restore the rules surrounding executive appointee lobbying to the higher standards of the previous administration.

The Ethics in Public Service Act would make commonsense changes to make government more transparent and accountable. For example, it would close loopholes in the Trump administration's ethics pledge allowing former appointees to communicate with the agency where they worked and permitting former lobbyists to join an executive agency that they lobbied within the previous 2 years.

Government officials should not be shamelessly trading on their service for personal gain or to help out the special interests that previously employed them.

Our democracy will function more effectively, and the American people will be better served, by a stronger separation between public service and corporate lobbying. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation to clean up the system in Washington.

RECOGNIZING LAKE TRAVIS FIRE DEPARTMENT AND BEE CAVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment to recognize the Lake Travis Fire Department and the Bee Cave Police Department that are in the great 25th District of Texas.

As we all know, yesterday marked 17 years since our country was attacked on September 11, 2001. We lost thousands of lives when terrorists wreaked havoc on the United States.

While we can never forget the anger and heartbreak we all felt, we must also never forget the heroic actions by our first responders. While people were running down the stairs to escape, men and women were running up 110 flights of stairs toward danger to save lives.

That day, we lost 343 New York firefighters, 37 Port Authority officers, and 23 New York P.D. officers.

While we can never truly thank them for their sacrifice, we can honor them for their courage and valor.

Yesterday, the Lake Travis Fire Department and the Bee Cave Police Department put on full gear and climbed 110 flights of stairs to commemorate those who never made it out while climbing those steps.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders are vital to the safety of Americans, and we must never forget to thank them for all they do. We must continue to pray for all those affected, and thank those who selflessly gave their lives for our Nation.

God bless our first responders, and God bless America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ACT OF 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6198) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6198

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the title heading, by striking "DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE" and inserting "COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE";

(2) by striking section 1901 and inserting the following:

"SEC. 1900. DEFINITIONS.

"In this title:

"(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term 'Assistant Secretary' means the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

"(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

"(3) OFFICE.—The term 'Office' means the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office established under section 1901(a).

"(4) WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—The term 'weapon of mass destruction' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

"Subtitle A—Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office

"SEC. 1901. COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

"(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Office shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, who shall be appointed by the President.

"(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary shall serve as the Secretary's principal advisor on—

"(1) weapons of mass destruction matters and strategies; and

"(2) coordinating efforts to counter weapons of mass destruction.

"(d) DETAILS.—The Secretary may request that the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the directors of other Federal agencies, including elements of the intelligence community, provide for the reimbursable detail of personnel with relevant expertise to the Office.;"

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"Subtitle B—Mission of the Office

"SEC. 1921. MISSION OF THE OFFICE.

"The Office shall be responsible for coordinating with other Federal efforts and developing departmental strategy and policy to plan for, detect, and protect against the importation, possession, storage, transportation, development, or use of unauthorized chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, devices, or agents in the United States and to protect against an attack using such materials, devices, or agents against the people, territory, or interests of the United States.