

Senate passes a bill, and, yes, they require 60 votes. Well, what does that mean? It means they have to come to a compromise at a higher number.

We didn't have to do that. We got some Republican votes for some of the bills. But the fact is, we did our business and, frankly, we did it before—it has been done since I have been here—96 percent of the government funded, and we sent them to the Senate.

The Senate has not considered a single one of those bills because they had no stomach for compromise, which was why we are negotiating with Mr. Mnuchin and not the Senate leadership to listen to what, apparently, the President will accept.

I agree with the minority whip that considering the administration's views is important because, of course, we want the bills signed. But we have known for a very long time that the Republicans could not—on this floor—neither Speaker Ryan, nor Speaker Boehner could negotiate with Mr. Mulvaney.

The minority whip knows that, Madam Speaker. As a matter of fact, a lot of the Republicans have talked to me, Madam Speaker, about how difficult Mulvaney is to deal with. But we waited for checkoff, either from Chief of Staff Mulvaney or the President himself. But we waited. Not we in the House, in the Senate.

So I tell my friend, the Senate was not prepared to bring their bills, not our bills, to the floor to try to achieve that bipartisan agreement of which the minority whip speaks. Not a single bill was brought to the floor before the end of the fiscal year.

You are not going to get any kind of an agreement if you don't try to move forward, if you just wait for what Mr. Mulvaney wants us to do.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I was just working with Mr. Mulvaney yesterday on USMCA, something I would hope to see us bring to this House floor. Clearly, by the end of this year, it should have been done a long time ago, but something I know he and many others in the administration—Mr. Lighthizer has been taking the point on trying to get a negotiation concluded so that we can create more jobs in this country and create better trade opportunities for our families that we represent.

Even if Mr. Mnuchin were to get an agreement, we all know that Mr. Mnuchin doesn't have a vote in the Senate. And even if every Republican in the Senate agreed with Mr. Mnuchin, you still can't pass a bill in the Senate because it takes Democrats working as well.

The families that we represent are much less concerned about whose side thinks they are right, as they are about saying, just go in a room and work it out. It has been done before. It ought to be done this time. And I would just encourage that between now and December 20—we don't have to wait until December 16—I would hope

that those leaders on your side in the majority would go get with the leaders in the Senate and come to an agreement.

I am sure they will have conversations along the way with the White House, too, but at a minimum, to get the House and Senate to come to agreement, not complain about who passed bills and who didn't.

The NDAA was passed here in partisan way. It never had happened before in the history of Congress. The gentleman's side chose to do a partisan bill where there was a bipartisan bill to be had, and, yet, that was put on the side.

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So there is a bipartisan way to do it or a partisan way to do it. Ultimately, you are in the majority; you get to decide that.

The Senate has their own different set of rules, and we might want to change them, but that is how they operate.

At the end of the day, both sides have to get in a room and work it out, and I would just encourage both sides to do that.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just make one additional comment.

It is ironic that the minority whip, Madam Speaker, addresses such great concern about funding the Armed Forces of the United States. We passed a bill at a figure that the Joint Chiefs of Staff thought was a figure that was acceptable and supportive of our national security, and almost every Republican—maybe every one—

Mr. SCALISE. Every Republican.

Mr. HOYER.—voted against it.

Mr. SCALISE. Because it had poison pills in it. The level of funding wasn't the issue. It was the limitations on the Defense Department to be able to do their job properly that were added in, when everyone knew those were partisan additions that had never been in previous bills.

So we can get it done without partisan bills. If you want to do the partisan poison pills, it is your prerogative, but it is not going to get signed into law. Our job should be to make law and to put the differences on the side and work through and get it done.

It has always been done before, by the way. NDAA has never been a partisan bill until this year.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I would say that is not accurate.

But having said that, we hope we can move forward. But to absolve the United States Senate, led by Republicans, have a majority of Republicans controlling the Senate Committee on Appropriations and controlling what goes on the floor—Democrats don't control that; the Republicans control it—they didn't bring a single appropriations bill to the floor.

Now, if you don't like our ideas, put your ideas on the floor. Have them voted up or down. If they lose, then you either have to get a compromise or you don't get a bill passed.

I will leave it to the American public, Madam Speaker, to determine who is being partisan on this issue and who is not.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, again, we know the rules of the Senate. They operate differently. We might both agree that we would do things differently. We do things differently in the House than they do. Ultimately, both sides have to come to an agreement, and, hopefully, that happens in the next few weeks, not at the midnight hour by December 20.

Madam Speaker, unless the gentleman from Maryland has anything further, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019, TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCHRIER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

EAGLE SCOUT WILLIAM MCLEES

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to commend William McLees of south Jersey on achieving the admirable rank of Eagle Scout.

William led his fellow boy scouts of Troop 79 in his Eagle Scout project to install an information kiosk at Somers Mansion. This information booth will educate visitors about the past of this old historic building, which is one of the oldest buildings in the region, dating back to 1725.

McLees carefully outfitted the kiosk with solar panels for lighting and a waterproof exterior so the structure will now be as long-lasting as Somers Mansion itself.

Madam Speaker, I applaud William's craftsmanship and his leadership in coordinating this project, and I thank him for this informative addition to our entire south Jersey community. I congratulate him on his high title of Eagle Scout, and I wish him the very best.

Americans look for heroes all over the world. Our hero is William McLees. He truly deserves our praise.

HONORING THE CITY OF MURRAY FOR SAFETY AWARD

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Murray, Kentucky, home of Murray State University, for its recent distinction as one of the top 50 safest college towns in America. Murray is a beacon of educational excellence and is an invaluable asset to the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

Through analysis of violent crime rates across the Nation, SafeWise, a safety-focused consumer research firm, found that Murray exhibited exceptionally low crime rates. This finding further highlights an already notable community in my district.

I applaud the work Murray has done to achieve this recognition and commend Murray State University on the collegial environment it has developed for its more than 8,000 students. When students come to Murray State, they not only join the academic community, but they also become citizens of the entire Murray family.

Once again, I congratulate the residents and leaders of Murray on this award and urge them to continue their tradition of excellence.

GUN VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, the shooting in Santa Clarita yesterday marks the 365th mass shooting this year. At least one of those shootings rocked my own community.

Today is exactly 9 months since the senseless workplace shooting in Aurora, Illinois, that took the lives of Trevor Wehner, Clayton Parks, Russell Beyer, Vicente Juarez, and Josh Pinkard. Some of the heroic police officers who responded to that shooting just returned to full duty this week.

This does not have to be the norm. This year, the House passed bipartisan legislation that would save lives by implementing universal background checks for every gun purchased. The Senate needs to pass it and to send it to the President.

And we should do more still. I support legislation that would prevent gun violence by: one, committing Federal funds to study it for the public health crisis that it is; two, keeping guns out of the hands of known domestic abusers; and, three, just this week, I cosponsored the Assault Weapons Ban of 2019, because weapons of war do not belong in our neighborhoods.

These are commonsense policies that would save countless lives: children's lives, first responders' lives, our own neighbors' lives.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JOSEPH RICHARD III

(Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Joseph Richard III, a Louisiana native who gave his life fighting for our country during a third tour in Iraq in his 5 years of U.S. military service.

Sergeant Richard was deeply devoted to his family and his country. He was a loving husband, son, brother, and uncle who dedicated much of his life to ensuring his loved ones—and every single one of us—were able to enjoy the many freedoms we too often take for granted.

Sergeant Richard was the recipient of 12 distinguished service medals, including the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

He made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield fighting against one of our Nation's fiercest enemies, and, for that, he will never be forgotten.

In fact, his parents, Joe and Elaine Richard, were both here in D.C. with us last week to memorialize forever their son's sacrifice in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

I take this moment to extend my sincerest and deepest appreciation to them and the countless others whose lives were blessed by Sergeant Richard. No one understands the true life of freedom more deeply.

I pray that God's grace continues to comfort them, and I thank them for their service and sacrifices over the many years. We know our soldiers don't serve alone.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard, thank you for raising a hero. We will also work hard here in Congress to honor your sacrifice and the sacrifices all of our soldiers make.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, over 7 million American men, women, and children depend on insulin to keep themselves alive; but, between 2012 and 2016, the price of insulin nearly doubled, forcing many of these Americans to ration this lifesaving drug.

It is unacceptable.

What we hear over and over again from big pharmaceutical companies is that these price hikes are necessary to pay for new research. But insulin isn't new. The first patent for insulin came out in 1923—almost 100 years ago.

The simple truth is that the drug companies keep hiking their prices on us because they can get away with it. As a result, Americans are made to suffer and make impossible sacrifices while the same drugs get sold in foreign countries for much cheaper.

That is why I am proud to support the Lower Drug Costs Now Act, smart legislation which would allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices for American citizens.

TAMAQUA FOOTBALL AND PENN STATE SCHUYLKILL CROSS-COUNTRY

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

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize several impressive athletic accomplishments that have recently taken place in Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District.

Last Friday night, Tamaqua football made history as they secured their first-ever district championship. After coming close to winning the championship for the past several seasons, I applaud the team's resilience and grit.

But football isn't the only sport to talk about in the Ninth Congressional District these days. For the third consecutive year, Penn State Schuylkill women's cross-country team took home the conference title at the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference Championships. This is the first time Penn State Schuylkill has achieved a three-peat. They are truly a sports dynasty.

Congratulations to both Sam Bonner, head football coach at Tamaqua High School, and Joe Muldowney, head cross-country coach at Penn State Schuylkill, for leading their teams to victory.

Perseverance and dedication are defining characteristics of Pennsylvanians. I am incredibly proud of the Tamaqua football and Penn State Schuylkill women's cross-country teams for these accomplishments.

And always, I am very honored to represent the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District.

SANTA CLARITA

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address yet another tragic school shooting. Yesterday, a gunman killed two students and wounded three others in Santa Clarita, California.

While we continue to gather the facts and pray for everyone in that California community, we must also continue to fight for action on gun violence.

It has been 261 days since the House passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act. That bill is buried in MITCH MCCONNELL's legislative graveyard. In that time, at least 320 mass shootings have occurred.

While I don't expect Senate Republicans to agree with every word of every bill that we pass here in the House, I do expect them to do their job. They need to hold hearings. They need to have a vote.

The American people deserve better.