

partner in the local community. It is a pleasure to have this outstanding company in North Carolina's Fifth District.

U.S. INCREASES TROOPS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA: WHEN WILL CONGRESS ACT?

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Drip, drip, drip, Mr. Speaker. That is the sound of U.S. escalation in Syria and Iraq. Yesterday, the Pentagon announced that the U.S. will send 217 additional troops to Iraq, pushing the official number of U.S. troops there to more than 4,000.

Mainly Army Special Forces, they will be embedded with Iraqi brigades and battalions. They will be stationed close to the front lines. They will include trainers and maintenance crews for the new deployment of Apache helicopters.

More U.S. commandos could also head to Syria, bolstering the roughly 50 Special Operations Forces advising and training rebel forces on the ground.

Just when is the House going to debate and vote on an authorization for deploying U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria?

When is the House going to debate these escalations that add more firepower and put more U.S. troops close to the front lines?

Our troops carry out their constitutional duties. When will Congress act and carry out its constitutional responsibility?

The American people are tired of endless wars. Putting these wars on remote control, with no debate and no votes, is shameful.

ENSURING INTEGRITY IN THE IRS WORKFORCE ACT

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, with tax day yesterday and millions of Americans feeling the sting of a burdensome government agency, the House will focus its efforts on giving taxpayers relief from the bureaucratic mess known as the IRS.

When the scandal broke that the IRS improperly targeted conservative 501(c)(4) groups, the Nation was shocked, but not surprised. After thorough investigations by Congress and unrelenting criticism by liberals and conservatives, several high-level officials resigned.

While the IRS can and has fired many low-level employees for other abuses and poor performance, a report by the IRS Inspector General found that many of the IRS employees were rehired.

That is why this week we are passing the Ensuring Integrity in the IRS

Workforce Act, which will prevent the agency from rehiring anyone who was previously terminated for misconduct.

Government employees, especially those in the IRS, who work with private and sensitive data of American citizens should not be given the chance to do it again.

This week the House will show the American people that we take our responsibility to stop corruption, misconduct, and abuse of power in the Internal Revenue Service seriously.

BUDGET RESOLUTION DEADLINE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week the House Republican leadership blew past the deadline to adopt the budget.

Instead of coming together to enact a budget that invests in American jobs, grows our economy, and builds the paychecks of American workers, Republicans actually decided intentionally not to pass a budget at all.

Even worse, in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, 100,000 people can't drink their water because it has been poisoned by lead through decisions made by its own State government. It is in crisis.

There is a bill in the Senate and there is a bill in this House to provide relief to this great city during a disaster, and this Congress won't bring up that bill, nor will it bring up legislation to deal with the opioid epidemic or the Zika virus epidemic.

This is shameful. This is the Congress of the United States. We are supposed to do the work of the American people. We have people in crisis in my own hometown, and we can't get Congress to act, not on a budget, not on health for Flint, and not on Zika.

We need to do our job in the body of this United States Congress.

SUPPORTING THE TEXAS-LED CHALLENGE TO THE PRESIDENT'S UNILATERAL AMNESTY

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, this week the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the United States v. Texas case. This is the Texas-led challenge to the President's executive orders on immigration, a challenge that I strongly support.

By granting unilateral amnesty to 5 million illegal immigrants, the President has blatantly disregarded his duty to enforce our laws. Instead, he is trying to rewrite them altogether. It doesn't work this way.

Article I of the Constitution is clear. All legislative powers shall be vested in Congress. Erosion of this principle is a threat to the rule of law. That is why this challenge by Texas and other States is so important.

This fight is about asserting the will of Americans and defending the author-

ity of Congress. I am pleased that the House has voted to put its full support behind Texas and our Speaker. Lower courts have already ruled to halt the President's illegal amnesty.

On behalf of my constituents, I strongly urge the Supreme Court to do the same.

□ 1215

CONGRATULATING J.W. OAKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize J.W. Oakley Elementary School for their academic and civic accomplishments.

Over the past 18 years, Oakley's commitment to academic excellence has enhanced the lives of their students and earned them statewide recognition. Oakley has been recognized as a California Title I Achieving School and California Distinguished School. In doing so, Oakley has consistently placed among the top performing schools in our district, with a California Academic Performance Index score of 804.

Furthermore, their extraordinary participation in the Jump Rope for Heart program has helped raise over \$200,000 for research initiatives.

I would like to commend the hard-working administrators and teachers for their work—teachers like Maryann Vasquez-Moreno, an educator of 15 years, who in addition to preparing her students to succeed, also organizes yearly food drives during the holidays for her community.

I am delighted to recognize Oakley Elementary School for their commitment to our children.

COMMENDING U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL FOR ENCOURAGING WOOD USE IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, which I am proud to represent, has a deep heritage with wood products and timber industries. Wood is the ultimate green building material and should be encouraged for its environmental benefits.

Unfortunately, USDA's Bio-Preferred Program did not recognize wood products, despite the obvious benefits of using such material in buildings. Because of this, I authored the Forest Products Fairness Act of 2013. This legislation, which was ultimately included in the 2014 farm bill, modified USDA's definition of bio-based products to specifically include forest products.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the U.S. Green Building Council