

Walker stepped in. Only Officer Walker's exceptional courage, disregarding his own safety, brought this deadly shooting spree to an end.

The Omaha community, the State of Nebraska, and our Nation are grateful for the heroic actions of Officer Coral Walker.

REMEMBERING GLEN NELSON

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a Minnesota legend, Glen Nelson, who passed away last week.

Glen was a medical pioneer whose work has transformed the lives of many thousands and thousands of people. From performing surgeries to creating medical devices to leading several healthcare companies, Glen did it all. Health care was his career, and that is because he recognized the power of medicine and innovation and how it could be used to make a difference in the lives of his neighbors.

Glen put it best when he said: "As a surgeon, you save one life at a time, but with medical devices, you know you are saving so many more."

Glen did what he did not to make money or gain fame. Glen was a leading doctor, inventor, philanthropist, and great family man because he cared about people, and he valued giving back to others.

Mr. Speaker, the loss of Glen Nelson is something that all Minnesota is feeling. Our State, our country, and our medical community are better off because of the leadership and passionate spirit of Glen Nelson.

FLORIDA'S GUN LAWS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Florida has some of the absolute worst gun laws in the country.

Much like Congress, Florida's Legislature has done nothing to prevent violent criminals from getting guns. According to a report in the south Florida Sun-Sentinel, in just 1 year, Florida granted permits to 1,400 people who pled guilty or no contest to crimes including homicide, assaults, and child molestation.

There are Members of this Congress who want to burden the entire country with Florida's shamefully weak gun laws in a race to the bottom for gun permit standards. Even the current reciprocity agreements between States are strained by how easy Florida makes it to get a permit.

In 2010, the Philadelphia Daily News found that 2,500 Pennsylvanians applied for gun permits in Florida. Non-residents apply for Florida permits to take advantage of Florida's shocking

failure to protect its own residents from gun violence.

This Congress must reject legislation that would force States across the country to abide by Florida's or any other State's weak gun safety standards. Passing this reckless legislation would, unfortunately, make gun violence Florida's most shameful export.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of the brave police officers who put their lives on the line each day to keep our communities safe.

This week is National Police Week, and communities all across America are showing their appreciation for the law enforcement officers who dedicate themselves to serving and protecting the public and bringing criminals to justice.

We also remember the heroes who gave their lives in the line of duty, and we think of the families they left behind. It is our duty to make sure that those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Americans to take the time this week to simply say "thank you" to a police officer in their city or town. We are grateful for their service, we are humbled by their courage, and we are indebted to them for their sacrifice.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Infrastructure Week.

Our national infrastructure is in dire need of repair. The American Society of Civil Engineers' most recent report card gave American infrastructure a D-plus.

Many of us here are parents. If your child came home with a D-plus, you would work with them on their homework, find a tutor, or maybe punish them. Yet our response to a near failing infrastructure grade is neglect.

In the short term, investments in our national infrastructure create jobs. In the long term, they help communities grow and expand opportunity.

I recently met with Transportation Secretary Foxx to discuss the proposed South Suburban Airport. With the national spotlight on the long lines at O'Hare and Midway, it is clear that the Chicago region needs an investment in a new airport to expand the region's air traffic capacity.

Investing in infrastructure is a win in both the short term and the long term. So this week, I urge my col-

leagues to stand with me and work together to invest in our future by improving and strengthening our Nation's infrastructure.

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the California High-Speed Rail Authority admitted that it needs an additional 4 years to build its first segment of track.

Despite claiming that the project was shovel ready back in 2010 in order to receive Federal funds, the Rail Authority has only recently started minor construction. Now the Obama administration has extended the lifeline 4 more years to use up the so-called stimulus dollars.

The project's costs are now more than double what the Rail Authority had claimed in the beginning. It has a funding gap of over \$55 billion, has changed its route repeatedly and still hasn't settled on a route, has failed to attract a single private investment, and fails to comply with State and Federal law on the prescription of its construction.

Mr. Speaker, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has broken every promise it has made to the people of California. It is time to pull the plug on a project that will not only never be completed, but is diverting billions of dollars from other infrastructure needs that people actually want, such as for our highways and needed water storage for California.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Nation's incredible law enforcement officers.

During National Police Week, we are reminded of the important work our local law enforcement officers do each and every day. They put their lives on the line to keep us safe. They are incredible.

I am especially grateful for the life and service of Tarpon Springs Police Officer Charlie K. Kondek who made the ultimate sacrifice on December 21, 2014, protecting the citizens of Tarpon Springs, Florida, and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputy John Kotfila, Jr., whom we tragically lost earlier this year.

Let us never forget the sacrifice of these local officers—they are terrific—and others who have fallen in the line of duty, and let us be thankful for those who keep our communities safe. They are true American heroes, Mr. Speaker.

I thank all who protect us. God bless them all. God bless the officers, and God bless America.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 4974, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 736 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4974.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) kindly resume the chair.

□ 0914

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4974) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 71, line 6.

□ 0915

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF WASHINGTON

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. Upon the acceptance by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of the newly constructed holes 10 through 18 at the golf course at American Lake Veterans Hospital on a portion of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, which were designed by Jack Nicklaus on a pro bono basis, the holes shall be designated as the "Nicklaus Nine".

Mr. HECK of Washington (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered read.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will continue to read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 736, the gentleman from Wash-

ington and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I actually plan on withdrawing my amendment, but would like to make my colleagues aware of some amazing work being done in my district on behalf of veterans and wounded warriors.

Mr. Chairman, millions—millions—of people watched the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay in Washington's 10th Congressional District last June. It showcased, frankly, the irreplaceable beauty of golf in the Pacific Northwest. But just a 10-minute drive from Chambers Bay, you will also find yourself at beautiful American Lake.

At American Lake, that is where veterans recover and heal from injuries at the VA facility, which is located near Joint Base Lewis-McChord. A big part of that recuperation includes a bit of TLC from another golf course in addition to Chambers Bay.

Since 1955, 61 years, nine holes of golf at the American Lake Veterans Golf Course is where South Sound veterans could escape the stresses of their daily lives and engage in some healthy competition. And let's be honest, it is hard to look forward to a visit to the doctor, but looking forward to a round of golf with your buddies is something entirely different. It has become a great way for older vets to connect with younger vets for more recent conflicts.

Currently, American Lake Veterans Golf Course—it is important that you hear this—is the Nation's only golf course designed specifically for the rehabilitation of wounded and disabled veterans. Almost all of the dedicated volunteers there are veterans as well. Well, except one, and his name is Jack Nicklaus—yes, that Jack Nicklaus—the "Golden Bear," widely regarded, perhaps, as the greatest golfer of our time, who now spends his time actually designing golf courses. He is the one who helped design and expand the American Lake Veterans Golf Course to include a back nine. They went from nine holes to 18. The back nine is now in place, and the course is waiting for VA Secretary McDonald to sign the necessary paperwork to formally accept the course improvements.

The course exists because of the determination of hardworking volunteers—really angels among us. And now it is time to honor one of those committed volunteers for his commitment to our veterans and wounded warriors, and officially designate holes 10 through 18 as the Nicklaus Nine.

With the Nicklaus Nine, we will now have an 18-hole, 100 percent ADA accessible golf course to accommodate returning troops and our local combat veterans. With the Nicklaus Nine, we will have double the accessibility and green to offer our veterans who have given so much to all of us.

Now, I am going to tell you a story, and I guarantee it is going to stay with

you, I guarantee that you are going to remember this story. There is a program at American Lake Veterans Golf Course that teaches blind veterans how to play golf. One year, we had a local golfer—his name happens to be Ray Reed—who was sent to the National Blind Golf Tournament in Iowa. Ray Reed, blind, wounded warrior.

And do you know what he did at that national golf tournament? He scored a hole in one. Yes, blind veterans can golf, and they learn how to do that at American Lake. It is incredible. They are an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Chairman, to avoid a point of order on my amendment, I would like to withdraw it at this time. But I hope that I can work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find another vehicle, or a standalone bill, to get this done. I strongly believe it to be appropriate to honor and bestow on he who has changed the name of golf, the Golden Bear, this honor for changing the lives of wounded warriors. I hope this will encourage the design and development of more golf courses around the U.S. devoted to our veterans and our wounded warriors.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GIBSON

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available for this Act may be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to preclude the territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam from inclusion in the meaning of the Republic of Vietnam under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4) and the amendments made by that Act.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 736, the gentleman from New York and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Chair, I am here this morning to bring forward an amendment that is for our sailors who fought in the Vietnam war. This is about ensuring they get the health care and the benefits that they have earned through their service in Vietnam.

But in a broader sense, this is really about justice. This is about veterans who went forward and fought that war, a deeply unpopular war that divided our Nation. They were never asked