

who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me.'"

On this 241st year of our Army's founding, I want to be one of the first to wish our United States Army the best and to say thank you and happy birthday. If you see a soldier anywhere today, wish the Army a happy birthday.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 22 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Al Riddley, The Springs of Bonita Church, Bonita Springs, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, grant us the wisdom and vision to comprehend the common belief that all people shall know peace as well as justice, righteousness, freedom, and security, with equity for every culture, color, and commitment.

Remind us of the past victories while recognizing the present challenges so as to strengthen our future as a country.

Lord, on this Flag Day, as it is honored and displayed around the world, may we take pride as Americans in being reminded of the significance of our democracy.

Give guidance to us as we are diligent in our responsibilities as citizens to guarantee that freedom is enjoyed by all who claim this country as home.

In our Allegiance, we witness to "one nation under God" as a promise of what others in this world can yet become. For this, we Americans stand together today, proud and strong, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANGEVIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND AL RIDDLEY

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, during morning-hour debate, I spoke about Al Riddley, who is from Springfield, Illinois, which is my hometown. He also is my brother-in-law. My sister from Springfield, Illinois, Lynn Callahan Riddley is also here. I want to welcome them to the Nation's Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for your courteousness to my sister and brother-in-law. I am grateful to you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE FATHER OF FLAG DAY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the father of Flag Day, Illinois' own Dr. Bernard Cigrand, on its 100th anniversary.

An immigrant and a teacher, Dr. Cigrand believed his students needed a symbol to instill a sense of national identity. He first celebrated our flag's birthday with his students on June 14, 1885, 108 years after its official adoption by Congress.

Thus began his life's work to create a National Flag Day. He wrote articles for magazines and newspapers. He gave lectures and wrote a book on the flag's importance. Soon, schools caught on, and more than 100,000 children participated in an Illinois celebration in 1894. Eventually, Dr. Cigrand moved to Batavia, Illinois, opened a dental practice and remained passionate in his efforts.

Finally, in 1916, President Wilson called for a nationwide observance. Seventeen years after Dr. Cigrand's 1932 passing, President Truman signed a law cementing June 14 as National Flag Day.

This 14th of June, the 14th Congressional District of Illinois celebrates Dr. Cigrand's dedication to our Nation's symbol, which gives hope and moves hearts throughout the world.

ORLANDO NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events over the weekend in Or-

lando defy comprehension. There is no way that reason can underlie this staggering loss of life, for the act itself flies in the face of reason.

My thoughts and prayers are with those who lost their lives and their families, and my thoughts and prayers are with those who were injured and are recovering from their wounds. This attack is the truest example of senseless violence and pure evil.

Today, we mourn as a Nation because we will not allow hate to invade our own hearts and minds. America is better than that.

But tomorrow, tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, and in the days and months to come, we can do something. We must do something. We must ensure that our LGBT brothers and sisters are welcomed by their communities, not subjected to discrimination. We must ensure that access to deadly weapons are sensibly controlled, and we must ensure that Congress no longer sits idly by while hate and violence continue to take innocent lives.

But, today, Mr. Speaker, we pray for Orlando, though we know our prayers, our thoughts, our moments of silence, they are not enough.

NAVAL STATION AT GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, last week, The Washington Post reported that at least 12 former Guantanamo detainees, after being released, had gone on to lead and participate in attacks against Americans and allied forces in Afghanistan. And most troubling, Mr. Speaker, the report noted that these attacks cost American lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration's plan to shutter our detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and accelerate the transfer of detainees to foreign nations or even the United States is both misguided and extremely dangerous.

I am committed to preventing the closure of Guantanamo and the further transfer of detainees. Mr. Speaker, even one detainee returning to the battlefield is too many.

This administration needs to acknowledge the reality of the threat posed by these detainees and abandon their ill-advised attempt to close Guantanamo Bay.

KEEP DANGEROUS WEAPONS OUT OF THE HANDS OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, our hearts are broken, and we are angry. The deadliest mass shooting in our history, 49 young lives ended in a place that served as a refuge from hate, a place of love and safety and community.

Mr. Speaker, when faced with terror and hatred, our Nation is tested. This House of Representatives is tested. And we are failing that test.

Shame on us if we cannot close the loophole that lets people on the terrorist watch list buy AR-15s. I am so tired of the House majority's pitiful excuses. Why does this majority allow suspected terrorists to buy guns? Why does this majority refuse to close the terrorist loophole and strengthen background checks? Mr. Speaker, I am ashamed of this institution.

Let us vote today. Let us vote to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of suspected terrorists. Let us vote so everyone can see where we stand and who we stand with.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with every American who rightly believes that if you are on the terrorist watch list, you can't buy weapons that can be used in the next mass shooting. That is where I stand, Mr. Speaker.

Where do you stand?

GOD BLESS THE FLAG AND VETERANS WHO CARRY IT

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, our veterans face many challenges when they return home from war, both physical and psychological. All too often, the latter is overlooked. An estimated 22 veterans per day take their own life, many of them struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder.

One Michigan veteran, Marty Wills, is embarking on an incredible journey to raise awareness about PTSD and mental health issues. Carrying an American flag, he is walking more than 1,000 miles from his home in Michigan to North Carolina. Last week, he went through several cities in my district, including Jonesville, Hillsdale, Hudson, Adrian, and Blissfield.

On Flag Day, as we commemorate Old Glory and the freedom and liberty she represents, let's also remember the brave men and women who fight in harm's way in defense of those freedoms. And when they get home, let's do everything we can to get our veterans the help they need for wounds, both seen and unseen.

ORLANDO TRAGEDY

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of those whose lives were lost in my home State at Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Floridians, Americans, and people around the world are in mourning today, grieving for those young lives lost and for their families.

When will this body finally say "enough"? Gun violence is a public health crisis, and we must do better.

No one needs an AR-15 assault rifle. This was the weapon of war that was used in Newtown, Aurora, and San Bernardino. We need to reinstate the assault weapon ban to reduce the chances that we have more tragedies.

People on the terrorist watch list should not be able to get a gun. This is common sense, but the majority continues to block this critical security measure.

I also rise to commend our law enforcement and healthcare professionals whose lifesaving work is ongoing. Acts of love like these will always conquer hate. They always have.

The American people will continue to stand with our LGBTQ and Latino brothers and sisters, and we will work that much harder and that much smarter and that much faster to ensure their safety and equal rights in their communities.

Love will win. Hate will be defeated.

FLAG DAY AND COLLIN COUNTY FLAG CEREMONY

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Flag Day, a special day when we reflect on what our American flag stands for and how blessed we are to live in this great Nation that celebrates freedom.

I believe this reflection is particularly important given this weekend's ISIS-inspired terrorist attack. There are those who seek to destroy our way of life, and we must actively defend our freedom.

So, as our American flag waives proudly today and we reflect on its symbol of hope, I invite Collin County folks to join me this Saturday for a special event that I will be hosting—the inaugural "Honor our Stars and Stripes" flag retirement ceremony. I hope you will join me for this unique program that honors our flag and our country's unique founding.

God bless America. I salute you.

CLOSE THE DEADLY LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues and so many Americans, I am horrified by the brutal act of terror that killed 49 people, including Tevin Crosby, a 25-year-old man from my district, and that wounded so many others in Orlando. I stand with the loved ones of those lost and with the LGBT community that has suffered this unimaginable act of violence.

You know, as our country works to heal from this latest deadliest mass shooting ever, Congress has got to do its job. We can act on this floor to protect American citizens by making sure that, if an individual is on the terrorist watch list, they cannot fly on a plane.

For God's sake, they should not be able to go and buy a weapon. The shooter in Orlando had been on the terror watch list and was able to go buy three weapons, including an AR-15.

Congressman PETER KING of New York's bill would stop this. I join with him, and I ask all Members of Congress, please, let's not let this moment pass. Let's take action.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service of two men from western North Carolina: John Queen, III, and Don Smart. Recently, they were inducted into the Western North Carolina Agricultural Hall of Fame.

As those plaques were put on the wall, it really didn't share the entire story, the entire story of who they are and how they serve their communities so well, not only in Haywood County but throughout all of western North Carolina.

These two men, whether it was with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, both on the local and national level, or whether it was with different associations of growers and farmers and the Farm Bureau, as is the case with Don Smart, served their community and have made their community better.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to not only acknowledge their service but also to acknowledge their friendship because they have helped me understand the agriculture community in a way that profoundly can only be done by those who are in it.

So, with this, we honor them today and their induction into the Western North Carolina Agricultural Hall of Fame.

□ 1215

IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ACT

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a call to action. Over 200 years ago, when our Constitution was authored, it ignored the backbone of the American people: women, African Americans, Latinos, and even White men who did not own property.

However, the beauty of our Constitution and our democracy is our ability to change. The power to amend the United States Constitution is the power to protect and reflect the will of the people.

Our forefathers could not anticipate the introduction of assault rifles into the United States. They could not anticipate that 32,000 Americans per year