

Congress has voted repeatedly to reject new restrictions on our constitutional rights. For more than 200 years, the Second Amendment has been protected and championed by Americans, the courts, and Congress. We must stand together to defend and protect our constitutional rights. As a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, I am outraged by President Obama's actions and will fight to stop this executive order.

In my home State of West Virginia, using guns for sport and hunting is a way of life. We respect firearms and are taught at an early age how to use them. In many families, fathers and mothers teach their children how to hunt and, when they are old enough, they receive their own gun as an important coming-of-age tradition. West Virginians are not alone. Families across this country have these same traditions and sports.

As West Virginians, we know that law-abiding citizens are not the problem and our country was not founded on the principles of taking away rights from the people. Our rights cannot and should not be taken away. This administration is determined to attack our way of life, our traditions, and our constitutional rights. I wish I could say this is a surprise, but time and time again, this President has used executive actions and regulations to eliminate policies and rights he disagrees with.

□ 1045

Sadly, we have seen this far too often with the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA, which has aggressively—aggressively—used regulations and rules to destroy our coal-mining communities, in particular, in my State of West Virginia.

I have fought to stop the EPA and will fight to stop President Obama's executive actions on gun control. As a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, I will use the power of the purse to eliminate funding for these new actions. As a Member of Congress, I am dedicated to working for our State and doing what is right for the people of West Virginia. I will continue to support our constitutional rights, including the Second Amendment, and push back on the administration's overreach into our lives, businesses, and communities.

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND RICHARD SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a good friend, Richard Smith.

Mr. DENHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FARR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DENHAM. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), my good friend, as we both recognize an amaz-

ing life of a good friend and acknowledge and honor the life of this personal friend and beloved community leader, Rich Smith.

He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, who passed away peacefully in the comforts of his home, surrounded by his family, on December 27, 2015.

Born on December 19, 1946, Rich was raised in Walnut Creek, California. Growing up, Rich's family was involved in 4-H, and agriculture had always played a major role in his life. Rich continued down this path by obtaining a bachelor of science degree in ag science and management from the University of California, Davis in 1968.

Originally, Rich was interested in the technical aspects of agriculture. He worked in a lab performing analysis on soil, water, and plant nutrition. Never did Rich believe he would be the owner of a successful wine company, but in 1987, this became a reality when he and his new bride, Claudia, purchased the vineyard known as Paraiso Vineyards.

Today Paraiso Vineyards is owned and operated by the Smith family and is located in the Santa Lucia Highlands in Monterey County. The family business consists of almost 3,000 acres of vineyards and continues to evolve in all aspects. Rich leaves behind a tremendous legacy that can be celebrated and appreciated by everyone who visits this magnificent vineyard.

Rich had a generous spirit and provided lasting contributions to the community. He was a local hero to the Salinas Valley, and he demonstrated time and again a desire to share his resources and talents with others.

I was one of those whom he shared his talents with as he encouraged, supported, and advised me to run for political office. Rich's motto always was: Treat people the way that you want to be treated. All that were lucky enough to spend time with him found that he truly lived by these words. Rich will forever be remembered for his kindness, generosity, leadership, and love.

On kindness and generosity, he and Claudia were kind enough and generous enough to host, 23 years ago, then my fiancée, now my wife, Sonia, and our wedding at the beautiful Paraiso Springs.

On leadership and love, as I was in the State senate, Rich provided leadership for not only the State of California, but the Salinas Valley, the wine industry, creating a wine mecca, pioneering Monterey County to be a leader in wine production as well as a new tourism corridor.

His love for family and his community was unmatched. He is a friend that is going to be forever missed. Not only was he a leader, a very kind man, a very generous man, but he had a tremendous sense of humor. I will never forget soon after our marriage, his daughter, Sonia's best friend, was being married at Paraiso Springs as well, and a funny episode happened where Sonia passed out in the middle

of the wedding. Rich seized the moment to rib me a little bit and my new mother-in-law. He made it clear that he thought that Sonia may be pregnant on that day. It was a funny gesture that, as a young man, made me a little nervous at the time, but he will always be a friend and sorely missed.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, we both got to know Rich through politics. It is amazing that he was a person who supported us both: Jeff being a Republican, myself being a Democrat; Jeff being in the State legislature, I being in the State legislature.

I got to know him when I was a county supervisor in Monterey County. Rich was always the go-to guy to really do sort of the technical issues that you drill down deep on a lot of controversial agricultural issues. His ideas were always based on good science, good farming practices, always sort of the idea of conservation in the best sense of the word.

He also was participatory in my daughter's wedding because the wines we served at that wedding were from Rich's vineyards. In fact, I brought a bottle of his wine today here on the floor to show the world that this man did some great things. His wines were served also at many, many charitable events that they did at their vineyards.

He and Claudia were kind of leaders. Claudia was very interested in getting the whole ecotourism, agritourism involved to get people out into seeing how agriculture is really produced, and wine visits are obviously a good way of attracting people, but the knowledge of it.

We are going to really miss him. He was a great person, and I am glad that we are able to create a national park right across from his vineyard so he can always stare at it.

Got bless Richard Smith and the great wines he made.

DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of life and in firm opposition to Planned Parenthood's unconscionable activities.

But as I begin my remarks, I want to be very clear about one thing. The vote that the House will take today is a victory for women's health while also serving as a cry to end the monstrous actions of an organization that continually attacks our most vulnerable unborn children.

There are more than 13,500 publicly supported alternatives for women's health care in the country and 588 in Missouri—alternatives that treat women without performing abortions, alternatives that will have more access to Federal money for women's health care. This means that in Missouri alone, there are 45 health clinics for every Planned Parenthood clinic in the

State. So, please, please don't be distracted by political rhetoric.

We are strengthening our support for women's health, and we are stripping Federal taxpayer dollars from an organization that performs more than 327,000 abortions a year.

While I have long fought to stop this atrocious practice, I was especially shocked this summer by videos of Planned Parenthood's cold indifference and barbaric murder of the society's most vulnerable members.

It is our duty as lawmakers, as citizens of a great nation, as friends, as neighbors, as family members to protect those who cannot protect themselves. It is a tragic shame to watch employees of Planned Parenthood so willing to sell the body parts of unborn babies.

These are truly some of the most horrifying and heartbreaking videos I have ever seen, even throughout all my work in combating sex trafficking, sexual assault, and abuse.

The United States is a nation that seeks to protect the least among us in numerous ways, from medical research assistance for the needy to elderly care. It is time that we do the same for our precious unborn children.

Mr. Speaker, today is an historic day when we will finally stop taxpayer dollars from funding Planned Parenthood's abortions. Surely, no Member of Congress can, in good conscience, claim that we should fund these heinous activities with your hard-earned dollars.

After seeing these horrible videos, I was compelled to take action. I joined Congressman SEAN DUFFY and Congressman CHRIS SMITH in sending a letter to Chairmen UPTON and GOODLATTE, requesting an immediate investigation into Planned Parenthood's actions. I would like to thank House leadership and the committee chairmen for granting our request and for the work that they have done on their committees already.

Planned Parenthood has shamelessly tried to defend the indefensible before these committees. They have shown no remorse for the actions described in these videos, apologizing only for the tone of them. In response, they have effectively dared Congress to act. And today we do.

Today Congress says enough is enough. Today we pass legislation that will give the President a very stark choice: continue paying for acts that are so disturbing, so horrifying, and so disgusting that they require congressional investigation, or simply respect life and respect the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the heart of my team's mission statement, which currently hangs in my office, reads: To confront injustice and serve as a voice for the most vulnerable in our society.

Defunding Planned Parenthood is the right thing to do. Today I will give voice to the voiceless. I will proudly cast my vote for life, for these innocent

angels. I will continue to fight for the day when abortion is not only illegal, but is unthinkable.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 56 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

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of this new day, we are grateful as individuals and as a Nation for all the blessings we have been given.

We ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House as they reconvene for the second session. May they anticipate the opportunities and difficulties that are before them and before so many Americans with steadfast determination to work together toward solutions that will benefit their countrymen.

Grant that they be worthy of the responsibilities they have been given by their constituents and truly be the people You have called them to be. May the walls of disagreement that have divided this assembly be put aside and replaced by a spirit of respect and dignity.

May Your Spirit, O God, be in all of our hearts and minds and encourage us to do the works of justice and peace now and always.

May all that we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING PEGGY SAMPSON

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I honor and congratulate Peggy Sampson, a long-time member of our congressional community, who retired after more than 37 years of outstanding public service.

Throughout her exemplary service, Peggy demonstrated strong commitment and dedication to the House of Representatives and to our great country.

Peggy arrived on Capitol Hill in 1978 as part of our proud U.S. Capitol Police. After 8 years, she was appointed as the Republican Page Supervisor. Since 2011, Peggy has been helping Members and staff as the House Floor Operations Clerk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deep gratitude to Peggy on her many positive contributions to the institution we are so humbled to serve.

Peggy, I wish you all the best in your much-deserved retirement, and I look forward to your continued friendship. Godspeed, my friend.

GUN SAFETY

(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, yesterday the President of the United States announced another series of actions that his administration is taking to curb our Nation's gun violence epidemic, for they are important steps, and I commend the President and Vice President for their continued focus on this ongoing crisis. As the President said yesterday, Congress still needs to act.

In my 15 years as a Member of the House, Congress time and again has