

has refused to act, despite its knowing how easy it is for criminals and dangerous people to buy these deadly weapons.

This week there was a bright spot. President Obama has taken executive action to increase the number of background checks on gun sales, a move which we know will help to keep guns out of dangerous hands.

I thank the President, but our work to prevent gun deaths cannot end there. Congress must finish the job by instituting universal background checks, banning assault weapons, and closing the dangerous loophole that allows a gun dealer to sell a gun if the FBI has not completed the background check within 3 days. We have to act. There is no excuse not to.

□ 1215

HONORING THE LIFE OF LINDA OSMUNDSON

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a survivor, a leader, and a compassionate woman who dedicated her life to making the Pinellas County community and the State of Florida safer. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Linda Osmundson, who passed away this Monday at the age of 66.

A longtime activist against domestic violence and a survivor herself, Linda was best known as the director of Community Action Stops Abuse, or CASA, in St. Petersburg, Florida. Linda served as head of CASA for 26 years before retiring this past summer. Before that, she guided programs in both Gainesville and West Palm Beach. Under Linda's leadership, CASA grew from a staff of 7 working out of a small home to over 80 employees with a 100-bed facility.

Linda started a first-of-its-kind substance abuse program for victims. In addition, she worked with law enforcement, who are now properly trained on dealing with domestic violence. She co-founded a program to secure pardons for victims of domestic violence convicted for defending themselves. For that, she earned the Governor's Peace at Home Award.

Mr. Speaker, Linda Osmundson leaves a legacy that will not be forgotten. She was a quiet hero in our community, and her life's work undeniably saved thousands of lives and made Florida a safer place. For that, we are grateful.

ATTACKS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE AND TAKING AWAY HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, it may be a new year, but the Repub-

licans are celebrating with the same old extreme attacks on women's health care and trying to take away health insurance from hardworking American families.

It is a shame that the House Republican leadership has chosen to spend the first week of 2016 attacking Planned Parenthood and dismantling those important benefits to 22 million Americans.

The bill that we will vote on today will defund Planned Parenthood and the important family planning services that they provide, including lifesaving cancer screenings for millions of women across this country. This bill would dismantle affordable health care for millions of more workers, for families, for students.

Instead of wasting time on a radical bill which, quite frankly, some on the other side have acknowledged will not become law, we ought to be focusing on the questions that the American people sent us here to work on—on getting our economy moving, putting Americans back to work, and rebuilding our infrastructure. That is the challenge that we face, and we ought not politicize women's health care in order to pander to the extreme voices on the right.

FAILED POLICIES, EMPTY RHETORIC

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on December 23, the Augusta Chronicle published an editorial with significant insight:

"President Obama finally has a counterterrorism strategy: Photo-ops and speeches. After dawdling for several years in the fight against ISIS, his advisers must realize that Mr. Obama is losing not only the war on terror, but the domestic audience as well.

"This administration is a story of one failure after another. The President calls ISIS the JV team of terror. He says ISIS is contained, the day before the Paris attacks. The morning of the San Bernardino terror attack, he says: 'Our homeland has never been more protected by more effective intelligence and law enforcement professionals at every level than they are now.'"

The editorial continues: "American lives are on the line, and this President won't identify the enemy or secure our borders and communities. And his plan of attack? Photo-ops and speeches and unvetted refugees."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Thank you, Peggy Sampson, for your dedicated service.

SUPPORTING PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's actions to address our Nation's epidemic of gun violence.

Yesterday at the White House, I joined with families from Newtown, Connecticut, which I am proud to represent, and with families from across this great country as the President outlined four steps within the current law to improve gun violence prevention.

First, strengthening background checks. If you are in the business of selling firearms, whether at a gun show or online, your customers should have to go through a background check.

Second, improving enforcement of the background check system so that it works better and faster.

Third, expanding access to mental health treatment and to tear down barriers to implementing existing law.

And, fourth, directing lifesaving new research into innovative technologies to make guns safer.

These are small but meaningful steps to address a public health crisis about which this House has been astoundingly silent. It is time for this House to honor the victims of gun violence, not with moments of silence, but with days of action. We can and we must do better to save American lives.

100TH PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

(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, as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I am proud to rise in recognition of the 100th Pennsylvania Farm Show, which starts this weekend in the Commonwealth's State capital of Harrisburg.

Agriculture is so important to our Nation's economy, and the same is true in Pennsylvania, where it is our largest industry. The farm show is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the Nation, with nearly 6,000 animals and 10,000 competitive exhibits from across the State.

The event itself started in 1917 with several events held across Harrisburg. By 1931, attendance had risen to 131,000. Today, the figure stands at an estimated 400,000.

This weekend, I will visit the farm show with Agriculture Committee Chairman MICHAEL CONAWAY and several other House colleagues. We will take part in a listening session to order to hear from farmers and others involved in agriculture regarding Federal policies.

I am looking forward to showing all those who make the trip to Harrisburg

why the farm show brings visitors back year after year.

REMEMBERING COMMISSIONER EL FRANCO LEE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this past week in Harris County, Texas, we lost a giant of a man in the name of Commissioner El Franco Lee, who served the Harris County Commissioners Court and the people he loved for 30 years.

One could never describe Commissioner Lee as a typical politician. As he walked through his district, I truly believe his giant footsteps touched everyone and everyone's heart. He was a lover of seniors and created opportunities for them to enjoy their life and swim in a fantastic pool at the Hester House. More importantly, he coddled and nurtured and created the Lyndon Baines Johnson Hospital that has served so many from all over the county and State. The Baylor Teen Clinic called him a guardian angel, providing healthcare services for vulnerable teens.

And, yes, he believed in something called the Olympics, not around the world, but right in Harris County; 10,000 children during the summer would have the opportunity to test their athletic prowess. And he was an athlete as well.

He was a friend of Mickey Leland and Craig Washington. More importantly, his beautiful family, wife, and children lived in his beloved community, Fifth Ward. He was a friend of the community.

He did so much as a county commissioner. He left behind wonderful parks and the opportunity for trails. He was a man in our community who knew about flooding. He was a strong, strong proponent of making sure that the infrastructure in Precinct 1 was the kind that would give a better quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, as I close on this wonderful public servant, let me say may he rest in peace, working until his tragic death, and offering to the people who were left behind our praise for him. May he rest in peace.

Thank you, Commissioner El Franco Lee, for being the giant of a man who reached low and touched all, loved us all, and brought us to a day in Harris County where we can be so proud of all that you have done.

IF TODAY WERE PRESIDENT OBAMA'S LAST NATIONAL SECURITY BRIEFING

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

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, over the holidays, I had the opportunity to read "Killing Reagan," another interesting book by Bill O'Reilly. In the book, he talks about the President's last warn-

ing. He had cleaned out the Oval Office, and he left a note in the desk for his successor. Then Colin Powell came in to deliver his last national security briefing. He simply said to the President: All is quiet in the world today.

Can you imagine if today were President Obama's last national security briefing? The gentleman or gentlewoman would say: Sir, we have a lot of problems in China, in North Korea, in Ukraine, in Yemen, in Syria, in Iraq, in Iran, in Afghanistan, in Saudi Arabia, and in North Korea. The Taliban is on the rise. ISIS is not contained. Israel is still mad at us. There has been recent terror activity in Munich, Paris, and Belgium. Sir, because of your leadership, all is quiet today in Greenland.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Senate amended Budget Reconciliation Act, a bill with several extreme provisions, including the repeal of the core of the Affordable Care Act for the 62nd time and the revoking of Federal funding for Planned Parenthood for the 11th time in this Congress.

It is a new year, but instead of bringing legislation to the floor that helps and makes Americans healthier, safer, and more secure, we are repeating the same old partisan fights.

Last year, many of my colleagues took advantage of a political stunt by an antichoice group that released falsified videos to damage the credibility of Planned Parenthood. There were congressional hearings, State-level investigations, and even a select committee formed to investigate the organization. The inquiries have resulted in no evidence of wrongdoing and have been a waste of taxpayers' money.

There are 2.7 million women in America who rely on Planned Parenthood for their basic healthcare services that they otherwise cannot afford and cannot access. There is no replacement for Planned Parenthood in many parts of the country, so taking away its Federal funds needlessly risks the health of millions of American women.

The CBO estimates that dismantling the Affordable Care Act will cause 22 million Americans to lose their health care. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 3762.

Thank you, Peggy Sampson, for your dedicated service.

PROMOTING CHARITABLE GIVING

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, one of our country's most treasured values is helping others who are less fortunate. We see it all the time in communities around the Nation, with Americans raising money for a worthy cause, do-

nating food, or volunteering their time to help their neighbors.

It is important that our Tax Code reflect these exact same values. It was gratifying last month to see Congress come together passing a new law that will promote charitable giving. One of the charitable provisions in the new law was a bill that I authored. It makes permanent a provision to allow a rollover donation from an individual's IRA to go to an approved charitable foundation.

In addition, the new law will encourage the donation of food to food banks from local businesses as well as promote environmental conservation through the granting of land easements.

Mr. Speaker, there are many Americans who want to give back and help others, and it is important that our Tax Code reflect these same values and doesn't punish them for wanting to do so. Each of these provisions help make that possible.

IN MEMORY OF WALTER MCCREARY

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Mr. Walter McCreary, a former but longtime community leader and resident of Ohio's Third Congressional District.

Mr. McCreary was a member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen. He flew almost 100 combat missions over Europe in his red-tailed P-51 fighter plane during World War II. In 1944, he was shot down and spent 9 months as a POW. After the war, he was assigned to Lockbourne Army Airfield, now known as Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio.

In 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Their exemplary combat record and honorable service are rightfully credited as the driving force for the full integration of our armed services.

Walter McCreary lived his life with courage, bravery, and honor. I extend my condolences to his family, and honor the legacy of both him and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen.

Mr. Speaker, I am also here today to stand up for families, for women, and for preserving access to women's health care.

□ 1230

SUPPORT TODAY'S RECONCILIATION BILL

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of today's reconciliation bill.

While it is true we have voted to repeal ObamaCare before, there is a reason why we continue to do so. We are