

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR DALE BUMPERS

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today our Arkansas delegation rises to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, an exceptional orator, and a distinguished son of Arkansas.

Former Arkansas Governor and four-term United States Senator Dale Leon Bumpers passed away on Friday, January 1, at the age of 90.

Hailing from the small town of Charleston, Arkansas, Senator Bumpers graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in political science and followed that with service in the United States Marine Corps during World War II.

After earning his law degree from Northwestern University, Bumpers and his wife, Betty, returned to their hometown of Charleston, where he practiced law. In the wake of the 1954 Supreme Court decision on *Brown v. Board of Education*, Bumpers advised the Charleston School Board to immediately desegregate its school system. Listed as his proudest achievement, the Charleston School District was the first school district in the former Confederacy to desegregate.

Nicknamed by *The New York Times* as the “giant killer,” Senator Bumpers emerged as a dark horse candidate to defeat long-time Governor Orval Faubus in 1970. In his two terms as Governor, he continued and expanded Governor Rockefeller’s era of expansive governmental reform.

In 1974, he defeated five-term U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright in the Democratic primary with 65 percent of the vote to win the Senate seat and serve for 24 years.

When I was a young Senate staffer, it was a pleasure to work with Senator Bumpers and my Second District predecessor, Congressman Ed Bethune, on the completion of the landmark Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, January 10, Dale Bumpers will be laid to rest.

Those of us in the delegation, as we prepare to make our final good-byes, would ask for a moment of silence to honor this Arkansas leader, public servant, and elder statesman.

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN OWNERSHIP

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of President Obama’s announcement today to fight the growing epidemic of gun violence in America and make our families more secure and communities safer.

It is just common sense that background checks should be required be-

fore an individual is allowed to buy a firearm, yet Congress refuses to pass legislation to close loopholes that allow gun sales to proceed before background checks are completed.

Under the so-called Charleston loophole that contributed to the mass murder of nine of my constituents, sales can proceed after 3 days, even when the background check is not complete. That is just wrong. My bill, the Background Check Completion Act, will ensure that background checks are completed before sales take place.

I thank the President for his leadership today, and I call on my colleagues, many of whom seem to default to “no,” no matter how reasonable the proposed legislation may be, when all else fails, employ common sense.

VISITING WITH CONSTITUENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA’S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

(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, yesterday I traveled across the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, visiting communities in Columbia, West Columbia, Aiken, North Augusta, Barnwell, Orangeburg, and Lexington to present my 2016 legislative agenda. At each stop, I was grateful to share my priorities with constituents and answer questions from the media.

In this new legislative year, I will advance legislation to create jobs for American families and reduce harmful regulations that destroy jobs. We also must protect the economic future for our children and grandchildren by passing balanced budgets and reining in Washington’s out-of-control spending, which is a crushing debt on future generations.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, I am also focusing on promoting peace through strength to support our troops and keep our families safe from Islamic extremists in the global war on terrorism. I will also strive to strengthen our Nation’s cyber capabilities and protect our citizens against cyber attacks by enemies.

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

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT PETER TAUB

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Staff Sergeant Peter Taub, one of six victims of a suicide bombing attack in Afghanistan on December 21.

Peter was a remarkable young man. He was raised in Wyncote, Montgomery

County, which I am proud to represent. He served 8 honorable years in the Air Force, assigned to the Office of Special Investigations, and stationed at the Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

At just 30 years old, Peter was a devout father, husband, and son, an exemplary soldier and public servant, an American hero.

I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends Peter left behind and my greatest thanks for his service to our Nation. He gave us all the ultimate sacrifice.

My heart especially goes out to Peter’s family: his 3-year-old daughter, Penelope; his wife, Christina, expecting another child; his mother, Arlene; his father, Joel; and his brother, Jonathan. No parent should be predeceased by a child, and no child should have to grow up without a parent.

These tragic losses are a reminder of the gravity of our foreign policy decisions and military engagement overseas. We must never take these responsibilities lightly. We must never forget the sacrifice that Staff Sergeant Peter Taub and his family have made to protect our freedoms.

May God bless Peter’s family.

THE HAMMOND SENTENCE

(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, this week a father and son reported to serve again an additional up to 4 years in Federal prison. Their crime? Setting preventative fires on their own property that accidentally spread to Federal lands.

The Hammonds, family farmers from Oregon, had already served time in Federal prison: Dwight 3 months, Steven a year. However, that wasn’t good enough for U.S. Attorney Billy Williams, who used taxpayer dollars to appeal the Hammonds’ original sentence and urged the Ninth Circuit to impose harsher penalties, over the judge’s objection, who had recommended in his vision much less harsh penalties for the crime in question.

Mr. Speaker, the question isn’t whether or not the Hammonds started these fires. They admit they did. The question is whether the U.S. attorney and his administration are prosecuting real criminals or pursuing a political agenda. Mr. Speaker, when a 74-year-old man and a 45-year-old father of three are forced to return to prison when they have already served time and paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines for a nonviolent, unintentional crime, the answer couldn’t be more clear whether this is political or not.

RECOGNIZING CLIFF KOROLL

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Cliff Koroll, a Chicago Blackhawks legend.

After signing with the Blackhawks in 1969, Cliff enjoyed 11 seasons as their right winger, where he reached the 50-point mark during four different seasons. He also helped lead the Blackhawks to the Stanley Cup finals twice and later served six seasons as their assistant coach.

His talent led him to be inducted into multiple sports halls of fame, but his greatest accomplishment is leading the Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Association. This group of retired players continually gives back to the Chicago community and has given over \$1 million in scholarships to the most deserving high school players in Illinois.

Cliff is also a supporter of the Chicago Legal Clinic, which provides legal services for immigrants, the disabled, victims of domestic violence, consumers with serious debt issues, and more.

Today I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Cliff's work and accomplishments.

HONORING KEVIN KLINE AND THE SNOWDROP FOUNDATION

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, in the movie "Forrest Gump," Tom Hanks runs for over 3 years.

A good friend of mine is like Forrest Gump. His name is Kevin Kline. He is a DJ on the 93Q morning radio show. His partners, Erica Rico and Tim Tuttle, call him Kevin Gump or Forrest Kline. Why? Because for 55 hours over New Year's, Kevin and others ran, walked, or crawled to save kids with cancer.

With his wife, Trish, Kevin started the Snowdrop Foundation because cancer touched a 16-year-old, who lost her life, named Chelsey Campbell. Snowdrop has raised over \$1 million in just 9 short years. They did this to ensure no child or parent hears those three awful words, "You have cancer."

All Texans are proud of Kevin and Trish and Snowdrop. To quote Kevin's idol: "That's all I have to say about that."

A CRITICAL STEP FORWARD

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, for too long, calls for Congress to pass commonsense gun control measures—heartfelt appeals from concerned Americans of all ages and ideologies, including gun owners—have fallen on deaf ears.

Despite the mounting death toll, the Republican leadership has refused to consider any new measures to address

the devastating impact of gun violence in America.

We cannot continue to wait for Republicans to come to their senses. The price of delay for our children, for our families, and for our communities is simply too steep. That is why I applaud President Obama for putting American lives above partisan politics.

The President's executive actions will require more gun sellers to be licensed and to conduct background checks, narrowing the dangerous loopholes that allow guns to fall into the hands of criminals or the mentally ill.

The new rules will also make it easier for us to hold irresponsible dealers accountable and to track guns that are lost or stolen. This is a critical step forward, but it is not enough.

I call on my colleagues to join the President in taking real action to prevent gun tragedies and keep the American people safe.

□ 1915

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE OVERREACH ON GUNS

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, President Obama is up to it again with his pen and phone. This time he is undermining the Second Amendment rights of American citizens through executive order.

President Obama's disdain for gun owners has been clear from the beginning. This is another sad chapter in his Presidency. It is a shame the President would exploit the latest act of terrorism in this manner.

The murders of Americans in San Bernardino were due to a radical Islamic ideology, an ideology that this President will not even acknowledge, though these people have declared war upon us, and nothing this President is doing through his unilateral action will address that. It will only serve to hurt law-abiding American citizens. President Obama is shooting at the wrong target.

We are a constitutional republic. The President cannot simply bypass Congress when his ill-advised initiatives are rejected. The President should join Congress in focusing on the growing threat of terrorism rather than making it easier to disarm law-abiding American citizens. We should do all in our power to stop this unconstitutional executive action and overreach.

MAKING AMERICA SAFER

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to be a Member of this House and to be elected in a wonderful, beautiful economy in the greatest Nation on the Earth.

The year 2015 has expired. We have just begun this session in 2016. But the question, ladies and gentlemen, is: What are we going to do to serve the public? What are the things that we are going to focus on to make sure that our constituents are safer so that we continue to provide a democracy that is an example for other countries?

We have heard just in the first few minutes of these speeches about how we need to make America safer. Well, one way that we can do that is to do our job so that the executive of our country doesn't have to try to do whatever he can to extend his responsibilities because we are not doing enough.

There are too many moments of silence, ladies and gentlemen, where 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 Americans are killed through senseless violence, and we have done almost nothing about it as a Congress.

REVOKE PASSPORTS OF MEMBERS OF FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ISIS fighters hail from nations all over the world, including the United States. Americans who go to fight the jihadists overseas are able to freely travel back to the United States with their U.S. passports.

These homegrown jihadists are not coming back home to open up coffee shops. They are coming home to harm Americans. We have to stop them by keeping them from coming back at all. That is why the United States House passed the Foreign Terrorist Organization Passport Revocation Act, which I introduced.

The legislation is simple: revoke or deny passports of Benedict Arnold Americans who have assisted designated foreign terrorist organizations. Not only will the bill help law enforcement locate these individuals, it will prevent them from entering the United States at all.

While my bill languishes down the hall in the Senate, Congress did pass a law allowing for the revocation of passports for Americans who are delinquent on their taxes. Mr. Speaker, what is a bigger threat to America and our national security? Tax offenders or terrorists?

Congress must get its priorities straight. It is time for the Senate to pass the House bill and revoke passports of members of foreign terrorist organizations who may or may not be tax cheats.

And that is just the way it is.

IRAQI JEWISH ARCHIVES

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