

leads and the community that he serves.

Blair Anderson has served in law enforcement for the past 20 years. During his years of service, he has encountered many difficult and even dangerous situations. Most notable of these situations was the brutal attacks at the Crossroads Center Mall this past September.

The attack at the Crossroads Center Mall truly shook our community to the core, and it was the response of leading community members like Chief Anderson whose unwavering dedication to all of our residents allowed all of us to find peace in our daily lives again.

Now, more than ever, our community needs leaders like St. Cloud Police Chief Blair Anderson. It's a great honor to recognize him here today.

STOP CLIMATE CHANGE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, according to his transition team, the President-elect's administration will withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement and scrap the Clean Power Plan because, they claim, it will increase energy bills without any measurable effect on Earth's climate. This is dangerous, shortsighted, and completely inaccurate.

The United States took an important leadership role in making the Paris Agreement happen and should continue to help lead international efforts to combat climate change. The Clean Power Plan is an essential part of the U.S. keeping its end of the bargain.

If the President-elect's administration follows through on its plans to abandon our commitments, the United States and the world will continue to suffer from increasing sea level rise, more frequent and intense natural disasters like Superstorm Sandy, and longer periods of drought, as well as other effects. What it won't do is save coal country jobs, something that the top Senate Republican pretty much admitted last week.

As President Obama said, the President-elect's administration should carry on the tradition of honoring our international agreements, and I urge him and his team to continue the efforts begun by President Obama to stop climate change before it is too late.

FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Forest Park Elementary School for over 100 years of success in central Arkansas. Built in 1913, Forest Park offers a variety of educational

clubs and experiences that support life skills and encourage teamwork, good sportsmanship and academic growth.

I loved my elementary school years at Forest Park, and I am happy that my children enjoyed a fine experience in those halls as well.

Located in the heart of Little Rock, Forest Park is led by Principal Theresa Courtney-Ketcher and serves 460 students in pre-K through fifth grade.

During the 2013–2014 school year, Forest Park was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education. This school is consistently a top ranked elementary school in Arkansas.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Principal Courtney-Ketcher, Forest Park Elementary and its faculty, and wish it much continued success in the generations to come.

POLL: AMERICANS SEE LIBERAL MEDIA BIAS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, these last few months have demonstrated how far the national media will go to promote a liberal agenda. Polls continue to show Americans' trust in the media is at an all-time low. Instead of providing objective and fair coverage of the news, the media provided one-sided stories that further damaged their credibility.

A recent Suffolk University/USA Today poll found that, by a nearly 10-to-1 ratio, Americans believe that the major newspapers and TV stations favored the Democratic candidate for President over the Republican candidate. Americans of all political affiliations know that the national media strongly leans to the left. Unfortunately, it has leaned too far for too long and has fallen off the credibility cliff.

We need to remind the media of their profound obligation to provide the American people with the facts, not tell them what to think.

AMERICA'S HISTORIC VICTORY AT THE BALLOT BOX

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President-elect Donald Trump, Vice President-elect Mike Pence, but most importantly, the American people on a historic victory at the ballot box.

Make no mistake, this election was a resounding rejection of the status quo in Washington, a revolution at the ballot box. The American people are sick and tired of open borders, runaway Federal agencies, unconstitutional executive orders, a weak foreign policy, a sluggish economy, and a Federal Government that simply no longer listens to them.

Now, under President-elect Trump and a Republican Congress, we have the opportunity to change that and achieve bold new steps that will put America on the path to a more secure and prosperous country.

I look forward to working closely with the Trump-Pence administration to help advance these goals, and a conservative agenda that rebuilds our military, secures our borders, ends the failed ObamaCare experiment, creates jobs, and protects the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken loud and clear, and it is now time that we turn this historic moment into action.

REMEMBERING DR. BILL LEHMANN

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on Veterans Day, I attended Port Aransas High School Veterans Day ceremony honoring Port Aransas veterans. This year's event was renamed to remember its founder, Dr. Bill Lehmann, who passed away earlier this year at 91.

During World War II, Dr. Lehmann served in the Army stateside, selling war bonds and working at a POW camp. After the war, he earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in physics, and began a 30-year career in the Air Force Civil Service. He rose quickly in the ranks, becoming director of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and, later, chief of the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, the first civilian to hold this job.

Lehmann focused his energy on community service when he retired in Port Aransas in 1992. He was an active member of the Port Aransas Rotary Club, where he was honored as Rotarian of the Year in 2013. He also founded the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the school in the early nineties, growing it from a small event to a gymnasium full of people packed with hundreds of veterans, students, and community members. Dr. Lehmann created a fantastic legacy that will impact the Port Aransas community for years to come.

To Dr. Lehmann and his family, and to all veterans, thank you for your service, and God bless you all.

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APPLAUDING 2016 WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS, THE CHICAGO CUBS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the 2016 World Series champions, the Chicago Cubs, and to congratulate back-to-back World Series MVP, Ben Zobrist.

As the switch-hitting, utility player for the Cubs, Zobrist played a crucial role in bringing his team to victory. At

the top of the 10th inning in Game 7 of the World Series, Zobrist roped an RBI double giving the Cubs the decisive run in the 8–7 victory that won their team its first World Series championship since 1908.

Ben Zobrist is a native of Eureka, Illinois, located in my congressional district. The four-sport Eureka High School athlete went on to play baseball at Dallas Baptist University before launching his major league career.

More admirable than his talent is his character. In Major League Baseball, Zobrist has represented the sport with true midwestern values. Ben is both a devout man of faith and a family man devoted to his wife and three children. Ben Zobrist's commitment to God, family, and baseball make him not just a hero for his hometown of Eureka, Illinois, but a man that all of America can respect and admire.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIBBLE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

URGING RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 780) urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the democratic transition of power in 2016, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 780

Whereas given its size, location, and diverse economy, the United States has deep interests in the democratic stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC);

Whereas from 1996 to 2006, more than 3,000,000 people died in the DRC as a result of internal and regional wars, and significant violence persists in the Eastern Congo;

Whereas a root cause of these conflicts was the decay of the undemocratic and corrupt regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko;

Whereas in 2002 the United States, working with African and European partners, helped facilitate a Congo peace accord that included a democratic transition and free elections under a new constitution limiting the President to two terms by an unamendable provision and providing for the President of the Senate to assume power temporarily until elections can be held once a Presidential vacancy is declared;

Whereas in 2006 Joseph Kabila was elected President in what was widely viewed as a free and fair election, but many respected international observers concluded that his 2011 election “victory” was “not credible”;

Whereas President Kabila's second term will end on December 19, 2016, after which his

government can no longer be considered the constitutionally legitimate representative of the Congolese people;

Whereas President Kabila has yet to declare unequivocally and publicly that he will step down at the end of his term, as required by the constitution, causing growing political tension, unrest, and violence across the country;

Whereas during the summer of 2014, President Kabila tried unsuccessfully to persuade parliament to change the constitution to open the way for his continuation in power after his term expires on December 19, 2016, and subsequently attempted to pass a law requiring a multiyear census in advance of the Presidential election—an effort that was dropped in January 2015 after mass demonstrations in which Kabila's security forces killed at least 42 people and arbitrarily jailed hundreds;

Whereas since January 2015, in further steps to undermine democratic processes and institutions, Congolese security and intelligence officials have clamped down on peaceful activists, political leaders, and others who oppose President Kabila's effort to stay in power past his constitutionally mandated two-term limit;

Whereas since January 2015 President Kabila has continually used administrative and technical means to try to delay the Presidential election (including an overloaded, unfeasible multielection calendar, failure to pass timely election laws and release authorized election budgets, abruptly implementing the division of the country's provinces, and having his “Independent National Election Commission” recently declare that it will take 16 months to update the voter roll);

Whereas the broad national dialogue convened by President Kabila served as another means of justifying a delay of the scheduled November 2016 elections despite the widespread withdrawal of participation by opposition parties and church leaders;

Whereas President Obama spoke with President Kabila on March 15, 2015, and “emphasized the importance of timely, credible, and peaceful elections that respect the DRC's constitution and protect the rights of all DRC citizens”;

Whereas President Kabila is calling for a broad national dialogue that could be used to confuse the election issue and serve as yet another means of delaying the scheduled November 2016 elections;

Whereas international and domestic human rights groups continually report on the worsening of the situation with regard to human rights in the DRC, including the use of excessive force against peaceful demonstrators and an increase in politically motivated trials and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has registered more than 260 human rights violations, mainly against political opponents, civil society, and journalists during the past year;

Whereas the DRC retains a relatively vibrant civil society that is exerting pressure on the government, and is at risk of being stamped out due to government repression consistent with President Kabila's attempt to remain in power;

Whereas leaders of Congo's main opposition parties, nongovernmental organizations, and prodemocracy youth movements called on Congolese citizens to stay home from work and school on February 16, 2016, for “Ville Morte (Dead City Day)” largely to protest against delays in organizing Presidential elections;

Whereas the strike was largely successful in major Congolese cities despite government detentions and threats;

Whereas, on March 10, 2016, the European Union Parliament adopted a resolution that urged the European Union to “use all its diplomatic and economic tools” in favor of “compliance with the constitution of the DRC” and invited African Union member states to also become engaged in the effort to advance this goal;

Whereas the European Union Parliament resolution also called upon the European Union “to consider imposing targeted sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes, so as to help prevent further violence”;

Whereas, on March 30, 2016, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2277, expressing “deep concern” about “delays in the Presidential election” and “increased restriction of the political space in the DRC” and calling for “ensuring the successful and timely holding” of Presidential and legislative elections “in accordance with the Constitution”;

Whereas, on June 23, 2016, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned General Celestin Kanyama of the Congolese National Police for his role in targeting of civilian protestors;

Whereas, on September 28, 2016, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned Major General Gabriel Amisi Kumba and General John Numbi for leading an armed group that has threatened the stability of the DRC and violently suppressing political opposition, respectively;

Whereas the DRC's Independent National Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Court have validated the indefinite postponement of the scheduled November 2016 elections; and

Whereas the Kabila government has stated that the elections may now take place as late as 2018, potentially extending his mandate by as much as two years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) under Executive Order 13413, as amended by Executive Order 13671, in coordination to the maximum extent possible with its African and European partners, the United States should impose sanctions on government officials of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who impede progress toward a peaceful democratic transition through credible elections that respect the will of the people of the DRC;

(2) sanctions should target core figures in the government of President Kabila for visa denials and for asset freezes because of actions that “undermine democratic processes or institutions”;

(3) economic and security assistance provided to the DRC government should be reviewed for possible termination, while preserving other, particularly humanitarian, assistance through nongovernmental and international organizations, and review future international financial institution assistance to the DRC until the election crisis is resolved;

(4) the President should lift sanctions only when the President determines that—

(A) President Kabila has unequivocally and publicly declared that, in accordance with the constitution, he will not remain in power once his term ends on December 19, 2016, has made verifiable progress on the ground towards holding timely free and fair national elections in accordance with the constitution, and has demonstrably opened the necessary political space for the opposition and civil society; or

(B) the DRC has held a free and fair Presidential election as provided by the constitution and a new President has been sworn in;