

has brought a bipartisan answer. We cannot allow differences that may exist between this body and the other body on other cybersecurity issues prevent us from taking action, getting something accomplished on something that everybody agrees on.

This is one of the things everybody agrees needs to happen. Information-sharing, everybody agrees on. Research and development that we'll have tomorrow on the floor, everybody agrees needs to happen.

I appreciate the work of this committee. It's an important bill. It will help make the Nation more secure, as well as this government, and I hope all Members will support it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no other speakers, and I'm prepared to close.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to associate myself with all the words that have been said by both sides this evening, because we understand that cybersecurity is so very, very important to our Nation. We often look back to 9/11 and we think about what happened in that very short time, and how it disrupted our entire Nation, taking planes out of the air, causing our world to at least pause.

□ 1900

We saw the damage that was done in a matter of a few minutes.

Cybersecurity and the cyberthreat is just as great, if not far greater, and can happen very, very quickly. A cyberattack can take place very, very quickly, and it is something that we must do everything in our power to protect ourselves against. This bill does not solve all the problems, but it certainly leads us in the right direction.

Again, I want to thank the chairman. I want to thank everybody involved for the bipartisan effort and for making the security of our Nation our number one priority.

With that, I urge all of the Members to vote for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge all Members to support the passage of this bill, H.R. 4257, as amended. I want to make one closing statement.

Often we talk about cybersecurity, and people think just about the Internet. We sit here in a room that is essentially windowless. I've been in this room when the lights are out. It is very, very dark. We would have a hard time finding our way out. Yet the very essence of keeping the grid up requires computers to talk to each other. Our phone systems, our lights, our power, our sewage, our water all depend today on interoperable computer systems that span the entire country and, in many cases, the entire world.

So, as people realize the government-to-government relationship and, par-

ticularly, the public-private partnerships that this bill encourages and asks the Office of Management and Budget to assure occur, we are doing so, of course, in order to maintain a reliable Internet; but much more importantly, the fundamentals of the very electricity that powers the Internet must be maintained and protected. I believe we've gone a long way today in the passage of this bill. I urge its passage.

I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his leadership on this important matter.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman ISSA for the hard work that he and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has undertaken in the development of H.R. 4257, the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012.

This bill updates and improves the decade old Federal Information Security and Management Act (FISMA). FISMA currently requires each Federal agency to develop, document, and implement an agency-wide program to provide information security for their systems.

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee receives annual FISMA reports from each Federal agency. These reports detail the management and security of each agency's information technology resources, and the actions necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the government's information security policies.

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee monitors these reports to review the cybersecurity standards and guidelines that the National Institute of Standards and Technology sets for Federal information systems. These standards and guidelines are particularly important because along with agency use, the same standards and guidelines are frequently adopted on a voluntary basis by many organizations in the private sector. The Committee will continue to receive and review these annual FISMA reports from Federal agencies, and will provide continued oversight of NIST's role in FISMA process.

H.R. 4257 takes an important step forward in the protection of the government's information technology resources by establishing a mechanism for stronger oversight. The bill ensures implementation of new developments in technological innovation, including automated and continuous monitoring of cybersecurity threats as well as regular threat assessments.

Our Federal agencies depend on FISMA to guide them to protect federal networks. Officials are already working to integrate some of the concepts proposed by H.R. 4257, such as continuous monitoring, into the management of information systems. I am encouraged that this bill will help agencies more easily comply with the latest cybersecurity standards and guidelines set forth by NIST.

H.R. 4257 is a good bill that represents another critical piece in Congress's overall efforts to address the Nation's cybersecurity needs. There are additional tweaks that could make the bill even better, and I look forward to working with Mr. ISSA as the bill moves through the process to address remaining issues to our mutual satisfaction.

I support the passage of H.R. 4257 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr.

ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4257, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HATERS OF RELIGION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, in the quiet town of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, a 91-year-old memorial honoring hometown soldiers stands tall outside a local fire station. A stone bottom statue with a cross on top immortalizes the fallen heroes who sacrificed so much for our country. For decades, the memorial has stood in the shadows of the fire station with no complaints from local residents.

But a group of out-of-towners, not from Woonsocket, not even from Rhode Island, but from 1,000 miles away in Wisconsin, have self-righteously objected to the cross on top of the 91-year-old memorial. The antireligious hate group demands that the cross be removed. They also demand that the firefighters' prayer and angel from the Woonsocket Fire Department Web site be removed.

Madam Speaker, the firefighter prayer asks God to give them "strength to save lives" and to protect the families of the firefighters.

County officials will not succumb to the intimidation tactics of the bigoted group. The mayor has said he will not remove the cross under any circumstances because the Constitution protects the free exercise of religion whether this hate group likes it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, it's hard to believe that in the 21st century women in Nevada are still making only 83 cents for every dollar that a man makes.

What does that mean in real terms? It means a difference of \$7,326 a year. It is not fair. In most cases, working women in Nevada are either the primary or the sole breadwinners of their families.

That's why I'm calling on the Speaker to follow the Senate's lead and to schedule a vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act, which is legislation that will help close the unacceptable wage gap between men and women in this country. Unfortunately, far too many in the House and the Senate are still living in the Dark Ages when it comes to basic fairness for women.

Women in Nevada are still shaking their heads in disbelief that in the year

2012 one of the major debates in this Congress has been whether to restrict access to birth control, and now there are those in the House and Senate who have voted time and time again against enforcing equal pay for equal work.

It is time for this Congress to join the rest of us in the 21st century. Let's get the paycheck fairness bill on the floor, and let's vote "yes."

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL CODY EVANS

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding young man from my district who I've recently had the pleasure of getting to know. Lance Corporal Cody Evans of Speedwell, Tennessee, serves in the United States Marine Corps as a combat engineer, one of the most dangerous jobs in the military.

While serving in Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Evans stepped on a pressure plate while sweeping for IEDs, nearly losing his life. He lost both legs and suffered numerous other injuries. I met Lance Corporal Evans in January of this year in a visit to Walter Reed. To say that I was impressed by this young man's spirit and resilience would be an understatement. Cody has the spirit of a fighter, a spirit that has led to his continued recovery.

No mention of Cody would be complete without mentioning his mother, Regina, who has been with him constantly. Her dedication to her son is incredible.

As a Nation, we must recognize those who serve, who have the character and commitment to risk their lives so that we may sleep peacefully at home. Cody Evans deserves this recognition, which is why it is my honor to ask that this poem penned by Albert Caswell be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I . . .
I Volunteered. . .
But, to do my very best. . .
As I so raised my hand like all of the rest!
Patriots, who over the years our nation have
so blessed!
As I so went off to war, but for the greater
good like all of the rest!
Men of steel, whose hearts so chose to crest!
As Cody, you so watched your brothers die!
While, holding them in your arms as you
began to cry. . .
And oh yes you Cody, you have so proudly
worn. . .
Those most magnificent shades of green,
that uniform!
Because, to be A United States Marine. . .
you were born!
For you'd much rather die for something,
than live for nothing at all!
As why Cody you so answered that most
noble of all calls!
That Call To Arms, That Call To War. . .
while standing tall!
As you almost died, oh yes a couple of
times. . .
While, there on the very edge of death you so
lie!
As you could have given up, but instead you
chose to rise. . .

As your newest mountain you were about to
climb!

Because, Cody you Volunteered for that
fight!

Yea Cody, because you're from Tennessee
where men with brave hearts ever burn
bright!

Who, In Strength In Honor do so believe!
Where them and their families are as strong
as Hickory trees!

And all in our Country Tis of Thee, they do
so believe!

This Volunteer from Tennessee!

As yes you have lost your two strong fine
legs, but you won't moan and you
won't beg!

Because, that's just The Volunteer all in
you!

In fact Andrew Jackson Cody, would be so
proud of you!

All because of what upon the battlefield of
honor, into what you so grew. . .

For surely Cody you had one of the toughest
jobs of that war. . .

As a Combat Engineer, where every new step
meant but death for sure!

Something that so demanded such faith and
nerves of steel!

As you and your brothers so fought and died
for was right and what was real!

And still somehow on this very day, your
strength and will to so come back from
the dead so impresses me!

To So Teach Us All!

To So Beseech Us All!

To So Reach Us All!

To This Our Nation To So Bless!

For you are but The Toast of Tennessee!

But, in Heaven you need not arms or even
legs!

And that is where you are going Cody one
fine day!

And if ever I had a son!

I wish he could but shine just half as bright,
as this great one!

This United States Marine!

Who embodies the very heart of Tennessee!

Who so Volunteered, all for this our Country
Tis of Thee!

As you so Volunteered to make America Safe
and Free!

I could do a million great things, but such
light to this our world I could never
bring!

As you are a most magnificent United States
Marine!

All in what your fine life has said, and so
means!

Moments are all we have to so make a dif-
ference in all we have!

To bring our light, to fight the bad!

Cody, to be an American. . . you make me so
proud to be!

For you are one of her greatest of all sons,
Ooh. . . Rah, a Shining Son of Ten-
nessee. . .

If it were not for Heroes like you and Volun-
teers, where would this nation be?

—By Albert Carey Caswell.

ENERGY ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. POE of Texas. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Tonight, I and other Members of the House are going to talk about energy issues in the United States.

Probably a timely thing to start with are the recent comments by one of the individuals who works for the Environ-

mental Protection Agency, the EPA. The more we learn about the EPA, the more we learn that they are hostile to real American energy for various reasons. Let me give you some historical perspective that makes this continuous assault on the oil and gas industry make sense to us now in 2012.

It seems that back in 2010, 2 years ago, EPA Region 6 Administrator Al Armendariz stood up on his bureaucratic pedestal of power and spelled out the true intentions that he had and the goals of the EPA. He declared that the EPA—and he declared this from his marble palace here in Washington, D.C.—that the EPA would target the oil and gas industry, calling it an "enforcement priority" as if, Madam Speaker, the oil and gas industry were made up of criminals.

He went on:

I was in a meeting once, and I gave an analogy to my staff about my philosophy of enforcement, and I think it was probably a little crude and maybe not appropriate for the meeting, but I'll go ahead and tell you what I said.

And here is what he said, Madam Speaker:

It was kind of like how the Romans used to do—you know, conquer villages in the Mediterranean. They'd go into a little Turkish town somewhere. They'd find the first five guys they saw, and they'd crucify them.

That's right—they would crucify them—as if he is advocating crucifying the oil and gas industry. What a thing to say from somebody who works for the Federal Government.

He said he would make examples out of the people in the oil and gas industry. Probably unknown to him, his speech was all caught on videotape that recently surfaced. In fact, it was on the Internet YouTube last night; but today, mysteriously, it seems to have disappeared and is no longer on YouTube. That was in 2010.

These comments help us to understand the EPA's belligerent attitude against energy—American energy—against the oil and gas industry. What came after was one of the most aggressive assaults on the oil and gas industry we've ever seen. As a Wall Street Journal editorial once said, the EPA is at war with Texas. I think the EPA probably should change their name to the War Department because they are at war with America's energy. They certainly aren't concerned as much about the environment as they are about putting American energy out of business.

The oil and gas industry supports 9.2 million jobs in the United States. I wonder how many of those workers Mr. Armendariz wants to crucify all in the name of his political agenda.

Madam Speaker, we need a fair EPA, one that brings a balanced approach to the environment and to our energy industry. An attack on the energy industry is an attack, really, on the American people and American jobs. Mr. Armendariz seems to be at war with America. He does not want to really