

This rite of passage has a track record of similar injuries, followed by ineffective attempts to make this event safer. Two years ago, for example, the 2013 pillow fight was canceled after at least one cadet placed a lockbox as a weapon in a pillowcase. Now it is back, and according to reports, the helmets the cadets were using to give their teammates concussions had been mandated as protection after injuries in previous pillow fights.

May I remind everyone that this education is being paid for directly by the taxpayers of this country. The U.S. Government funds everything the Academy does to the tune of millions of dollars a year. It is utterly irresponsible to think that a violent pillow fight is a way to build camaraderie and create a professional military.

West Point has stated that all cadets are back on duty and that it is pursuing an investigation, but Congress needs to know what kind of investigation it is pursuing and when we will receive answers. As the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I am calling on the Army and the U.S. Military Academy to provide a clear explanation of the incident and its causes, as well as a full accounting of who was responsible and what measures are being taken to prevent something like this from happening again.

We will not create the world's most feared fighting force by hosting a concussion-filled slumber party. We must ensure that the august institution lives up to the exceptionally high standards that it represents and that our future military leaders live up to the great responsibility that rests on their shoulders. We can and we must do better.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TUSKEGEE AIRMAN JOHN WATSON, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Watson, Jr., of Beckley, a Tuskegee Airman who served our country honorably during World War II.

Mr. Watson passed away on August 31, and he will be buried with honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

I had the honor of meeting Mr. Watson in May when he was formally recognized as a Tuskegee Airman. Mr. Watson joined the military during World War II and served as an aircraft crew chief. These men were integral to the success of the Tuskegee Airmen but were never given their due until recently. I was pleased and honored to help present Mr. Watson with his Tuskegee red jacket and his Congressional Gold Medal when he visited the Capitol just this past May as part of an Honor Flight that was organized by Airways Free Honor Flight of West Vir-

ginia. One of his granddaughters, Daphne Watson, was able to join him for the presentation, and there was not a dry eye in the room as Mr. Watson received his long past due, much-deserved recognition.

After serving in World War II, Mr. Watson continued his work as an employee of the VA Medical Center in Beckley, West Virginia. He truly believed in giving back to his Nation, and we are better off for his service to our country.

SACRAMENTO HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary heroism of Airman 1st Class Spencer Stone, Army National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos, and college student Anthony Sadler.

These three courageous young Americans drew the attention of the world on August 21 when they bravely took action to prevent a terrorist attack that could have taken the lives of dozens, if not hundreds, of innocent people on a passenger train in France. By now, most of the country and the world have heard about the heroic actions of these young men.

Spencer, Alek, and Anthony were on a train from Amsterdam to Paris as part of a European vacation. A terrorist, intending to murder passengers, boarded their train. When the attacker, armed with at least two firearms, including an assault rifle with hundreds of rounds of ammunition, entered the train car, the three young Americans, without hesitation, responded.

Witnesses say that Alek prompted action by yelling, "Go get 'em." Spencer charged and tackled the gunman, with Alek and Anthony close behind. The three men, with the help of another passenger, tackled, subdued, and disarmed the attacker before anyone else was seriously injured. The attacker managed to wound Spencer with a box cutter during the struggle. Despite his injuries, Spencer used his Air Force medic training to treat the wound of another passenger, likely saving his life.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud that all three of these heroes are from the Sacramento region. They met at a local middle school and have maintained a close friendship ever since. Their friendship and loyalty to each other is part of what makes Sacramento and this Nation great.

Spencer grew up in Carmichael, which is just outside of Sacramento—a suburb, in fact—and attended Del Campo High School. He currently serves as a U.S. Air Force medic.

Alek is also from Carmichael and had moved to Oregon. He serves in the Oregon National Guard and had just finished a 9-month deployment in Afghanistan.

Anthony is studying kinesiology at California State University, Sac-

ramento. He grew up in Sacramento. His father is a pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church, a historical church in our community, and he has been a friend of the Matsui family for many, many years. As he related to me, he always told Anthony to always watch each other's back. That is what friends do.

Mr. Speaker, Spencer's, Alek's, and Anthony's actions were nothing short of extraordinary. These young men, who call themselves just regular guys, have given all Americans a reason to celebrate. They have been awarded the French Legion of Honour. My city of Sacramento, which is also the State capital, will be throwing them a parade on Friday—significantly, on 9/11—and I am sure more accolades will follow.

However, more important than any accolade is that they have reminded us about the importance of service, sacrifice, and selflessness. All three men deserve commendation for the manner in which they have represented our Nation and have put themselves in harm's way to save the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Spencer Stone, Alek Skarlatos, and Anthony Sadler as we honor their bravery.

A NUCLEAR-ARMED IRAN IS A THREAT TO EVERY COUNTRY

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there is no higher priority for this government than of guaranteeing the safety and security of the American people. Allowing Iran—the chief sponsor of global terror—to obtain nuclear capabilities, which Iran is guaranteed to have through this deal, means freedom everywhere is threatened. A nuclear-armed Iran is a threat to every country everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, any deal must be verifiable, enforceable, and accountable, and there is nothing verifiable about this deal.

The secret deals between Iran and the U.N. mean Iranians get to certify whether they are complying, and Iran actually provides the testing samples to the U.N. for testing. If the U.S. demands the right to inspect facilities, Iran can delay for more than 3 weeks. Our "anytime, anywhere" threshold demand has been watered down during negotiations to what Iran calls "managed access."

It is not an enforceable deal. Sanctions will have been lifted, and it is the sanctions that have forced them to the bargaining table in the first instance. Once lifted, Iran will have billions to complete their nuclear program and expand their funding of terror. Even if we can prove a violation, a slow bureaucratic process gives them time to delay, deceive, and deter effective enforcement. There are no snapback provisions here, Mr. Speaker, and it is not an accountable deal.

Iran is permitted to keep thousands of nuclear centrifuges to enrich uranium. As for the \$150 billion in unfrozen assets, does anyone think that Iran is going to use that to build schools or hospitals or to teach tolerance of other faiths? Instead, how about using it to wipe Israel off the map? How about the chants of “death to America”? Why are we paving the path to weapons that can accomplish these atrocities?

Why should we trust Iran? What is it about their history of deceit, destruction, and killings that warrants our bestowing trust that they will be peaceful?

Here is a question for those who say this is a good deal: How many people can Iran kill with this money for this to remain a good deal? What is the under-over death toll threshold for this deal to no longer be a good deal?

I ask these questions because, very simply, this money is going to be used to kill people, and this deal provides the funding for it.

Millions of Americans, throughout the history of this country, have fought and died. Families have sacrificed in the name of freedom. Generations of Americans have brought about American strength and exceptionalism, and this has engendered a belief in our allies that we will have their backs, and it has kept many of our enemies in check given our military capability. This strength has always been at the very core of our leverage when dealing with other countries.

As for negotiating, the administration simply says we have negotiated the best deal we can, and we are supposed to, as Congress, accept that at face value with zero input.

Here is a little bit of recent history. We were assured by this administration that al Qaeda had been broken, but it hasn't. Our strategy in Yemen was called a model for combating terrorism, but, at this point, it looks very much like an Iran proxy state. ISIS was mocked as a JV team, and now they are murdering thousands. Our relationship with Russia was supposed to be reset, but I don't think anyone let Vladimir Putin know that as he invades sovereign countries and faces no consequences.

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How about the bright red line in Syria that said we won't allow Assad to kill his own people with chemical weapons? This administration decided to ignore that, and we now have a Syrian refugee crisis.

This is the recent backdrop from which our leverage, our American strength and exceptionalism, earned through the blood, sweat, and tears of generations of Americans, has been broken by this administration in this deal.

The U.N. voting on this deal before the United States Congress and the United States Senate, the minority of which is actually considering filibus-

tering a vote on this deal, is an outrage, Mr. Speaker.

What does a good deal consist of? Real simple: A complete dismantling of their entire nuclear program. Once we have a demonstrated proof of that, then sanctions get lifted. No non-nuclear concessions.

Any other outcome is not acceptable. Let's use our leverage to the maximum. We fought for it. Let's be strong and let's be proud of our strength and let's use it to our advantage.

Diplomacy isn't compromising to the preferred position of a terrorist country. Diplomacy must always begin and end with protecting American security.

This is not about politics, and it is not just about America. A nuclear Iran is a global threat to everyone everywhere. All Iranian terror must be stopped. We need to reject this deal and go back to the negotiating table.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA FIELD HEARING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Congresswoman DELAURO and I held a Make It In America field hearing in Connecticut.

We heard from manufacturers from across the State, including leaders from Click Bond in Watertown, Connecticut, who are committed to growing their businesses right here in the United States. But they need our support.

Congress needs to be a more effective partner for American manufacturing. We must continue to foster an innovation economy that creates manufacturing careers, not jobs, but careers that are at the heart of the middle class.

We must reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, a critical financial tool for our companies to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

We must work together to create a predictable Tax Code that encourages companies to return to the United States and levels the playing field for our small businesses, particularly our family-owned companies.

We must inspire our students in science, technology, engineering, and math so that the United States remains the leader in global innovation for generations to come. By engaging our students in the STEM fields, we can prepare them to be the scientists, entrepreneurs, and innovators of the future.

These students could become NASA astronauts like Waterbury's own Rick Mastracchio, who circled the planet on the International Space Station, or machinists or Teamsters, who assemble the aircraft that our military flies proudly all around the world, or computer programmers, who make our world more accessible and connected. Many of my colleagues share my passion for STEM education and bolstering our skilled workforce.

With Minority Whip STENY HOYER's leadership, Congress has advanced the Make It In America agenda and passed important legislation to cut taxes, provide small business loans, train skilled workers, and support American manufacturing.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are dedicated to creating and growing American jobs.

By rising above partisan politics and focusing on commonsense practical policies, our bipartisan efforts can stimulate real economic growth. We should seize the opportunity to work together to support high-paying careers in American manufacturing.

WASHINGTON STATE WILDFIRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, for the second year in a row, my home State of Washington and my Fourth Congressional District are facing the worst wildfires in the State's recorded history.

One year ago the Carlton Complex fire broke out in Okanogan County. At the time, it was the most destructive in our State's history, burning over 250,000 acres, destroying hundreds of homes and businesses, and devastating the environment.

Now the people of Washington are once again enduring another catastrophic wildfire season, far surpassing the scale of the devastation experienced last year.

To put it in perspective, the amount of land burning in my home State is equivalent to the State of Rhode Island. Many of these fires continue to burn, even as Federal, State, and local agencies and officials work tirelessly to contain them.

Communities across my State are mourning the tragic loss of three firefighters who fell in the line of duty on August 19 while battling the Twisp fire in Okanogan County. We remember and mourn the loss of these brave young men: Andrew Zajac, Richard Wheeler, and Tom Beshevsky.

Our prayers are with their families and their loved ones. The current situation in Washington is dire, and the heartbreaking loss of life is a sober reminder of the dangerous conditions facing many residents.

Already roughly 1 million acres have burned, along with countless homes and businesses and agricultural operations, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate their homes as the threat continues.

While the Governor has declared a state of emergency and the President approved a Federal emergency declaration, the threat remains for residents of central and eastern Washington, and more resources are necessary.

For the first time in history, the Forest Service has spent more than half