

From his start on Capitol Hill working in both Bush administrations and then leading the Energy and Commerce Committee staff effort, he has this passion for public service. He is relentless in his devotion to serving the American people and to driving the committee over time and really putting together a great team.

As you have heard, because of his leadership, the committee successfully shepherded through dozens of pieces of really important bipartisan legislation for the American people that have made their lives better, such as the 21st Century Cures Act, modernizing our chemical safety laws, improving pipeline safety, among many others.

We are fortunate to have had such a gifted adviser, exceptional leader, tireless advocate at the helm of this committee staff for the last 6 years.

It has been a real honor, Gary, to work with you. I wish you, Sue, and your whole family the very best in the years ahead. You have given this country incredible service, and we appreciate you for that.

God bless you and Godspeed.

BABY FATEMEH

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, this is Fatemeh. She is not a terrorist. She is a 4-month-old baby girl who is in immediate need of open heart surgery. Her parents desperately want the best care for her, so they planned to bring her from their home in Iran to Portland, Oregon, to one of the best hospitals for pediatric heart surgery. That is where Fatemeh's uncle and grandparents all live. They are U.S. citizens.

Then President Trump hastily issued the executive order, and the family's plans were brought to a halt. The order is supposed to expire in 90 days, but Fatemeh's family does not know if she can wait that long.

Now, I don't know what the President had in mind when he signed that order, but it probably wasn't baby Fatemeh. Keeping 4-month-old babies out of our country does not make us safer. It puts her life in danger and it diminishes the United States in the eyes of the world.

My office has reached out to Fatemeh's family in Oregon to be of assistance, but it is heartbreaking and disgraceful that this even happened. I hope the courts invalidate this unconstitutional executive order soon, and I hope it is in time for baby Fatemeh.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORING

(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 to recognize the importance and impact of mentoring in our society.

I recently heard from a constituent, Karissa, who works with the Boys &

Girls Club in my district in Bryant, Arkansas.

One of her mentees was struggling, having trouble in school, finding it difficult to build friendships with her fellow students. Karissa's guidance and encouragement helped build confidence, which led to participation in the school's JROTC program and improving her camaraderie with her fellow cadets.

At-risk youth face many difficult challenges, and life is infinitely more challenging without the support of caring adults.

With mentors, at-risk youth are less likely than their peers to skip school or use drugs and are more likely to go to college, play sports, and volunteer in our communities.

Whether it is through a mentoring organization like Scouting or the Boys & Girls Clubs, a nonprofit, a religious institution, or school, being a positive influence for our young people goes a long way in strengthening our communities and serving the best interest of our children.

□ 1130

DON'T REPEAL ACA WITHOUT A REPLACEMENT

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, Shirley is from my district, and I heard from her this past December when she told me about her daughter, Sarah. Sarah has had health problems all of her life and, unfortunately, because it has been too expensive, she has not been able to afford health insurance, but she was finally able to be covered under the Affordable Care Act because of the historic Medicaid expansion. It made a big difference in her life because just 2 years ago, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

Now, Sarah may be just a statistic to some, and, indeed, she is 1 of 601,000 Washingtonians who have been covered under the Medicaid expansion; 20,000 of whom have been treated for cancer.

But to Sarah's mother, Sarah can't just be boiled down to an ACA statistic. To Shirley, Sarah is her daughter who will lose this coverage if Congress repeals the healthcare law without a comparable replacement. It would put Sarah, in her fight against thyroid cancer, back to square one.

Friends and colleagues, I plead with you, go to your districts. Talk to the Shirleys; talk to the Sarahs. Listen to them.

Their stories matter because they matter.

THE MENACE OF THE DESERT—WARMONGER

(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, the Ayatollah, the menace of the desert, had defied yet another U.N. resolution prohibiting missile tests. No surprise. Iran just can't follow the rules. Time and time again, Iran has tested ballistic missiles with no consequences. The last time, they launched two missiles with "Israel must be wiped off the Earth" written on them in Hebrew. Also, the Ayatollah has clearly stated numerous times he wants to destroy the United States.

Even worse, Mr. Speaker, we are paying him to do it. Yes, that is right. Obama slipped the rogue tyrant \$150 billion hoping that appeasement would make the Ayatollah be nice. Well, guess what? Obama was wrong, and the U.S. is less safe. The Ayatollah, in my opinion, is using our money to build weapons to destroy us.

Mr. Speaker, there must be clear consequences for the dictator of Iran and his mullah cronies for warmongering. The people of Iran need to change this regime, and the menace of the desert just needs to go.

And that is just the way it is.

CONDEMNING ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE BY RUSSIAN-BACKED SEPARATISTS

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

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I strongly condemn the escalation of violence in eastern Ukraine by Russian-backed separatists and call for an immediate withdrawal of heavy weapons.

I am deeply concerned about the loss of life and deteriorating humanitarian conditions that exist there. There has been an "uncountable" amount of violations of the Minsk agreement according to the OSCE. Russian separatist forces must immediately honor the ceasefire to allow for humanitarian assistance.

I call on this administration to step up and see this through. Thousands have already died in this conflict, including at least eight in just the last 5 days. Seventeen thousand civilians, including 2,500 children, do not have access to water, electricity, or heat during the height of winter.

I urge Secretary Tillerson to provide Ukraine with defensive weapons—as Congress has already approved—and to provide meaningful support to our Ukrainian allies against Putin's aggression.

When it comes to Russia, we must see this administration's true colors.

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

(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, today marks the conclusion of the annual Catholic Schools

Week in America, and I rise today to celebrate these quality educational institutions.

This year, the theme celebrated was “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” Schools across the country observe the week with masses, open houses, and other activities for students, families, parishioners, and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and contributions to their church, communities, and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Catholic schools provide an excellent education to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. These schools offer academic excellence and faith-filled education for students nationwide. National test scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance, and other data show Catholic schools frequently outperform schools in both the public and private sectors.

While there have been challenges to enrollment in some areas, the good news is that there is a strong demand and enthusiasm for the rigorous and quality education Catholic schools provide. Nearly 30 percent of the schools have waiting lists for admission, and new schools are opening across the country.

Congratulations to all involved in Catholic Schools Week and your efforts to educate the next generation.

ISIS AND FORCES OF DARKNESS

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as many have explained on this floor, Trump’s executive order, his Muslim ban, repudiates our values and violates our Constitution.

After 20 years on the Foreign Affairs Committee, I think it is important to come to this floor and explain how that executive order is harmful to our national security. Trump’s executive order plays right into the ISIS narrative. It says that there is a clash of civilizations and that all Islam is our enemy. ISIS, which has, perhaps, a few hundred thousand followers, dreams of convincing all of Islam—dreams of convincing 1.5 billion Muslims—that they are at war with America and the West.

We do not have a clash of civilizations. We have a clash between civilization and the forces of darkness bent on destroying civilization, whether they reside in Raqqa or at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

IN MEMORY OF GRANT RONNEBECK

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a young man who would have been my constituent.

Two years ago last week, 21-year-old Grant Ronnebeck was manning the counter at a Mesa, Arizona convenience store. An illegal alien walked into the store and shot Grant in the head, killing him, over a pack of cigarettes that the man did not want to pay for.

The illegal immigrant, Apolinar Altamirano, had been out on bond awaiting deportation due to a violent criminal history. Grant had his whole life ahead of him, but lost it because of the failure of his government to protect him from criminally violent, illegal immigrants.

I have introduced H.R. 486, otherwise known as Grant’s Law. This bill would end the practice of releasing illegal aliens guilty of deportable crimes so they are no longer a danger to innocent American citizens.

I was emboldened last week when President Donald Trump invited Grant’s father, Steve, to the White House to witness the signing of an executive order administratively ending this dangerous policy. I am thankful for a President that protects Americans and seeks the rule of law. However, if Congress fails to pass H.R. 486, this policy remains a temporary Presidential order and does not carry the permanent force of law.

We must make sure that Grant’s fate never again happens to any young man or woman. We must pass Grant’s Law.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, here it is, Friday. It has been a good week in Washington. We have gotten some of President Trump’s nominees approved and through the Senate. Call them like you see them, I think.

Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL has done a great job this week. I applaud his efforts. And as a result of what President Trump has been doing—and actually part of it is just his getting elected—has done for our economy because people know—at least a lot of people know—he is going to keep his word. He is already showing he is doing that, and he has repealed some of the executive orders that have been doing so much damage to our economy.

And when we say economy, what we mean is, the rank and file people, the backbone of America who have been struggling, who have made less money than they did 8 years ago when adjusted for inflation. Those are the people we are talking about; those who have been out of work, the 94 or 95 million who have become so desperate, they pulled out of even applying for work.

I enjoyed, to an extent, the exchange between my friend, KEVIN MCCARTHY

and my friend across the aisle Leader HOYER. And I get amused when I hear Democrats quoting Senator McCAIN and Senator GRAHAM—wonderful people. LINDSEY GRAHAM, it is a real joy to be around talking to LINDSEY GRAHAM. But if you look at positions they have taken, it would make you think twice about quoting them as positions you wanted to have supporting yours.

I mean, nothing stands taller than the 30 million of the 90 million or so living in Egypt, when they rose up that June because a Muslim brother named Morsi was seizing power. He was on his way to becoming the Chavez in North Africa, and the people rose up. It was not only the largest peaceful demonstration in the history of the world, it was the largest demonstration in the history of the world.

All over Egypt, moderate Muslims, Christians, Jews, secularists, they all rose up, went to the streets and demanded the removal of the man who would be king, the Muslim brother named Morsi. The difference in this king is, as many of the Egyptians have pointed out when I have been in Cairo and other places, he wasn’t just going to be king. He was going to be the puppet of the spiritual leader of Islam in Egypt.

Some of my Egyptian friends, when I have been over there, say: yeah, we have seen video of him taking his orders from the spiritual imam, and he followed his leadership. So if that is true, then he wasn’t just going to be king. He was going to be a king puppet.

But the Muslim brother was removed as a result of 30 million people rising up peacefully. Morsi only, allegedly, got around 13 million to claim the win and made clear his opponent knew—for the original Presidential election—that if he raised a stink about any votes being fraudulent, they would burn the country down—that was some of his supporters. Because the Muslim Brotherhood, if you go back and check, when churches are burned, it is normally the Muslim Brotherhood over there.

In Egypt, they had been anathema to representative government, to civilized government, to nonsectarian government. They want a new caliphate to start with basically the old Ottoman Empire and Erdogan in Turkey; he is undoing all of the great reforms made by the great Ataturk nearly 100 years ago, and he is undoing them.

□ 1145

There are those in Turkey who would like to see a caliphate—a new Ottoman Empire—and it have its leadership in Turkey. They long for the days when they ruled an expansive caliphate.

I had a reporter say: Why would you say that?

I said: Go look at a map. I know you weren’t ever taught what the Ottoman Empire was. Go look at a map and look at the countries where our President is supporting an uprising that eventually, if we don’t stop it, will become anarchy or it will become part of the caliphate.