

and politics to maintain a strong, steady voice on behalf of our heroes since its founding in 1899.

On this upcoming Veterans of Foreign Wars Day, may we pause to honor the many contributions of this organization and be reminded to pray for those who continue serving around the world.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, many of us are disappointed that sometime on the floor today we will spend precious time that could be utilized for our focus on ISIS, focus on increasing the minimum wage and addressing social issues across America on condemning the President for authority that he had and for, in essence, rescuing Sergeant Bergdahl. But that is, unfortunately, where we find ourselves. I am here to indicate that the President has enormous responsibilities and has been thoughtful but forceful on behalf of the American people.

As they indicated, there are many issues that we have great concern with, and last evening colleagues of mine in the Congressional Black Caucus stood on the floor of the House to address the heinous killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

First, let me thank Congressman LACY CLAY and Congressman CLEAVER for their leadership. They had to be on the front lines embracing the family members and community. But those of us in distance want to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Michael Brown and indicate that we have had great police-community relations through many of our districts overcoming some very serious obstacles, as we did in Houston, Texas. We started community-oriented policing at the leadership of former Mayor Lee P. Brown. It can be done.

On the Judiciary Committee, I have worked with funding for community-oriented policing, and, therefore, I don't take a backseat to my support of law enforcement across this Nation. The actions that were played out by the media in video, to me, took the life of a boy who had a life in front of him.

So it is crucial that this body does not leave for its recess again and not address, in some direct way, the killing of Michael Brown, hearings regarding the militarization of our police, adding more funding back to community-oriented policing, and, yes, asking the question of the utilization of firepower against an unarmed Black boy.

The epidemic of the killing of Black men is real; you can see the numbers. Those of us who are mothers who have to tell our sons how they ought to respond when they are on the street—educated, military personnel, high school graduates or not—this is something that all of America should be concerned about because we are Amer-

ica. I hope to be part of the solution and not the problem.

We will be looking to introduce legislation that addresses the question of how we utilize equipment that was given for natural disasters and fighting terrorism, not to go against unarmed civilians. That is, I believe, a charge for this body.

Let me also indicate that, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, having just come from the Midwest, I know that ISIS is real, and I believe that the President had a strategy. It was a deliberative strategy. It was one that was not to be spoken of precipitously or to announce what you are going to do next. But as he engages in consultation with our leadership, it is crucial that he engages in consultation with Members of Congress. I know that that is the President's effort. He has done so in the past.

We have willing allies in the Mideast who are willing to stand up with United States leadership on strategy where they are in the front. We must define what boots on the ground means, what does the 1,000 individuals who are there now who are military personnel. We must find a way to address Syria without collaborating with President Assad. And we must be reminded that the religious minorities in Iraq are still under siege and attack, and there are, in the wake of those attacks, often children that we must address.

□ 1030

We must be able to provide international resources for the children who are left after the bloody siege of ISIS. And then we must explain to the American people that we have their national security in our hands, that we realize that the rising numbers wanting to attack Syria and wanting to continue to attack Iraq in those areas where ISIS is because of the fear of the homeland.

As I indicated, as the senior member on Homeland Security, we get that. We will be holding a hearing in the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, where I serve as ranking member, along with my chairwoman, Congresswoman MILLER. I have introduced legislation as an aside to declare the Russian rebels as terrorists. I look forward to looking at this question, as Congressman WOLF has, this issue of those with U.S. passports and this question of how do we keep them from flying, adding them to the no-fly list. We are looking at ways of getting our walls around those individuals being able to attack the homeland.

Again, we have many issues to come together on as a body. We must address the crisis of the killing of Michael Brown. But we also have to say that we can do it together. We must address this crisis of dealing with ISIS. It is real, it can be assessed, and it can be handled. Collaborate with our Western allies and our friends in the Mideast. It is our duty, and we must do it now.

HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, "cowardly," "a heathen," "selfish"—those are the words some used to describe Robin Williams' suicide. These underscore that there is a great deal of ignorance and misunderstanding about suicide.

Myths surrounding suicide are pervasive and persistent. Given that September is National Suicide Prevention Month, we have an opportunity to dispel these common misconceptions, such as "suicide is not that common." This year, 9.3 million adults will have serious thoughts of suicide, 2.7 million will make suicide plans, 1.3 million will attempt suicide, and nearly 40,000 will die by suicide. One suicide occurs every 16 minutes, and one veteran commits suicide every hour. More will die by suicide this year than in car accidents.

Here is another misconception: "Those who die by suicide should just have sucked it up." But the vast majority of individuals who have died by suicide had a diagnosable mental illness. Mental illness is a contributing factor in 90 percent of suicides, and the risk of suicide increases more than 50 percent in individuals experiencing depression.

Consider this mistaken belief: "Suicide is well planned and a thoughtful act." Twenty-five percent of people who attempt suicide do so within 5 minutes of their initial decision, and 75 percent do so within the first hour.

Although there is a lot we know about suicide, these myths continue to perpetuate because we don't understand enough why certain populations are at higher risk and what is happening in the brain at the time of suicide.

A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that in the last decade, here is what happened with suicide rates:

The rate for those 35 to 64 years of age increased 28 percent; for women, it increased 31 percent; for white Americans, it increased 40 percent; for American Indian and Alaska Natives, it increased 65 percent; and the use of suffocation or hanging increased 81 percent. And despite a continued focus on youth suicide, it remains either the second- or third-leading cause of death for those between the ages 10 and 25. Rates have also increased dramatically among elderly White men.

The report goes on to note that "additional research is needed to understand the cause of the increase and why the extent of the increase varies."

Suicide is a public health crisis demanding a policy response that, to date, has been tepid at best. The impulsive nature and correlation with mental illness requires us to treat suicide as a mental health crisis. To this end, I have introduced the Helping Families

in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 3717, which authorizes research at the National Institute of Mental Health to enhance our understanding of suicide and advance evidence-based approaches to prevention that are not solely centered around raising awareness.

Families of those with serious mental illness already are aware that there is a problem. Unfortunately, a small percentage of those with serious mental illness are not aware they have a problem, but everybody is also painfully aware they cannot get help when someone is in mental health crisis.

We can save lives and help families in mental health crisis, but only if we, as a Nation, have the courage to confront mental illness head on rather than just use phony, feel-good measures.

My legislation also reauthorizes the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, which is the largest youth suicide prevention and early intervention program in the country. However, this program does not address the full scope of suicide, which can affect individuals of any age.

Thus, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, which I chair, will continue its investigation into our Nation's broken mental health system by looking at proven strategies to reduce the staggering number of suicides. It begins with fixing our broken mental health system and providing hope and evidence-based treatment to individuals and families in crisis. I call upon Members to cosponsor that bill.

Mr. Speaker, we need to tell Americans that if someone you know needs help, they should call 1-800-273-8255 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. They can also find more online at www.afsp.org, the Web site of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

It is clear that this is a national crisis. If we saw any other disease in this country that had numbers as high as these—1 million attempts and 40,000 deaths—we would call upon Americans, the National Institutes of Health, and others to take action. Certainly, we would call upon Congress to take action. This is demanding our action, for every day more and more take their lives from this serious public health problem. Let us address this. Let us no longer ignore it. So many more lives are at stake.

THE ENDURING STRUGGLE OF THE CRIMEAN TATARS

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk a little bit about the enduring struggle of the Crimean Tatars, a people who have suffered much over the many generations of war that they have seen in their region. I had an opportunity to meet with many of them when I was in Ukraine. ELIOT ENGEL and I sat down with all of the different

minority groups that have been through so much in that region.

I just wanted to say this to the Members of the House, and that is that Russia's aggression in Ukraine has produced many tragedies, but none—none—more so than that of the Crimean Tatars. For centuries, this Muslim community has suffered greatly at the hands of Russia's rulers. Russia's rulers have devastated the population, and they have driven countless numbers from their homes. And now, Moscow's forcible occupation of Crimea has imposed a new oppression on this long-suffering community, forcing large numbers to flee and making the rest increasingly unwelcome in their ancestral homeland.

When I was in Ukraine, besides meeting with senior Ukrainian officials, we had these conversations with the representatives of their community as well as other minority groups, other ethnic Russian communities. And I was privileged to meet and talk at length with the most prominent Tatar leader, Mustafa Dzhemilev, who is the former head of the Mejlis, the executive body of the Tatar parliament, as well as with other senior leaders in their community. He and his colleagues have been blocked from returning to Crimea by the ruling authorities there, as so many other Tatars have been blocked once they go over the border from Crimea to come back into their home. They are refugees unable to go home.

During our meeting, we discussed the increasing pressure on the Tatars in Crimea and the situation they live under. Thousands have fled, and those who remain face a very uncertain future. They are subject to increasing pressure and restrictions by the local authorities, who they believe are trying to force them out because of their ethnicity and because they didn't welcome Russia's armed occupation and illegal annexation. Of course, there was never any possibility that they would be allowed to participate in the phony referendum held in March in which 97 percent of the population supposedly voted one way in that election to join Russia, even though the entire ethnic Russian population numbers only 58 percent of that overall community. The Tatar population is about 12 percent. Knowing that the vote would be rigged, they refused to provide the propaganda exercise with any credibility, and they and many other ethnic groups there in Crimea urged a boycott and undertook that boycott.

Unfortunately, their current struggle is only the latest chapter in their long history of great suffering and very brave perseverance. Many times in the past, they have been subjected to mass deportation and assaults, with great loss of life. The most terrible was Stalin's mass deportation of the Muslim Tatar population to Central Asia in 1944. Over half—over half—of the men, women, and children died in what only can be called a genocidal process. And those that survived the privations

found themselves in an alien world, forced to begin their lives again in great hardship.

In the mid-1980s, the Tatars were finally allowed to return to Crimea. Most of the surviving population—and it was a fraction of the original population—eventually did come back. In the last census, they comprised 12 percent of the population. There they reestablished their ancient community and proudly took their place in Ukraine's new democracy.

All of the people I spoke with in Ukraine, including the ethnic Russians whose interests Moscow claims it is protecting, said that they opposed Russian intervention, and at the end of the day they supported a united Ukraine. And that was especially true of every ethnic community and civil society group in eastern Ukraine that we talked with. And the Tatars, including some still alive who survived Stalin's crimes, have a deep historical memory of Russia's actions in Crimea. They are not fooled by Moscow's protestations of peace there.

In our efforts to secure a lasting peace in Ukraine, the U.S. and our allies must not accept Russia's forcible expulsion of Tatars from Crimea, but that is, once again, what the Russian Government is doing to these people. They must recognize the religious and ethnic rights there. And we must not forget the people there. We must not leave them to this fate at the hands of merciless authorities who seek a region cleansed of all those they deem to be enemies of their imperial ambitions.

By refusing to surrender to endless threats and centuries of oppression, the Tatar people continue to give hope to all those around the world who are battling overwhelming forces in defense of their homes and of their freedom.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Glen Berteau, The House Modesto, Modesto, California, offered the following prayer:

I thank God for the men and women of this House and their commitment, concern, and call to help America to be a great nation. I bless them and their families with health, wisdom, and supernatural peace.

George Washington said: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."