

Mr. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to express my outrage that my Republican colleagues, in the darkness of the night, offered a surprise amendment to allow the Confederate battle flag to be displayed in our national parks and at Federal cemeteries. Just a couple of days ago, this body voted to remove the Confederate battle flag from our national parks.

My Republican colleagues are choosing to raise the Confederate battle flag again, despite growing opposition by Americans who recognize it as a disgraceful celebration of the war waged to prolong slavery in this country.

Yesterday, in a stunning sign of progress, South Carolina voted to take down that flag after 50 years of flying it at their State capitol. Why do some here continue to insist on defending this painful symbol of racism?

This is shameful. In the wake of the devastating murder of Senator Pinckney and the eight other churchgoers at Emanuel AME, this is a new low for this Congress.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, today, we have 10,000 known diseases, most of which are considered rare. However, we only have 500 cures for these diseases. Americans can do better than that, and today, we have that opportunity to do so.

We have a bill that will be heard here on the floor today, the 21st Century Cures Act, which I am proud to be a sponsor of and thrilled to see that we actually have an opportunity to help so many people with increased funding so that we can help find some cures, help people—sometimes in our own family, people that we know, our friends—with some of the diseases and some of the things that we face.

Finally, today, with all the negative press that we have got, we have an opportunity to actually do something to be proud of, something that actually makes a difference for people in our own community.

Again, I ask that this House approve this bill.

GOP CONFEDERATE FLAG AMENDMENT

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, the hope of a secure, livable world lies within those who believe in justice and equality for all.

Democrats have worked in a bipartisan fashion to ban the display of Confederate flags in Federal cemeteries and barred National Park Services from doing business in gift shops that sell the Confederate flag.

Last night, Republicans rolled out an amendment that would resurrect the

Confederate flag in our national parks. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled by these actions.

The tragic events in Charleston led to South Carolina's landmark vote last night to take down the Confederate flag from their statehouse. If South Carolina can act, certainly and surely, Congress can support our national parks in acting to don't sell that flag.

Mr. Speaker, these are America's parks, and they belong to all people. The Nation is watching. Don't go down in history as not standing up against violence and racism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me to ensure that we don't sell that flag, the Confederate flag.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, last night in the South Carolina Legislature, we saw Democrats and Republicans join together to take down the Confederate battle flag, many with tears in their eyes and still grieving the nine lives lost in Charleston.

While the people of South Carolina move one step past this terrible tragedy, many House Republicans want to take our Nation 150 years back.

We were scheduled to vote on the Interior Appropriations bill today. The bill was pulled because Members on the other side of the aisle objected to banning the display and sale of the Confederate flags at national park facilities.

For years, I have heard all the arguments from those who defend the display of the Confederate battle flag, but it is moral cowardice to ignore this flag's history of White supremacy and treason, to pretend it symbolizes anything other than a heritage of hate and human oppression.

The Confederate battle flag does not belong atop our State capitols, and it certainly should not be sold or displayed at our national parks. It belongs in a museum of shame, alongside the other relics of hate and division that tore our country apart.

SHERIFF RALPH LAMB

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

Ms. TITUS. Sheriff Ralph Lamb, who passed away on July 3, was one of those larger than life characters who dot the landscape and lore of the Old West.

A rancher from humble Mormon beginnings, he embodied the independent cowboy spirit. He was John Wayne, Wyatt Earp, and Dirty Harry all rolled into one. He was a rodeo rider. He inspired a TV series, and he changed the face and future of Las Vegas by cleaning up the streets and reining in the mob.

Sheriff Lamb wasn't afraid of the devil because he always had an angel

on his shoulder. He cut a wide swath and cast a long shadow over Las Vegas when times were simpler, but the stakes were high.

Our community misses him; I miss him personally, and I look forward to reading George Knapp's biography on his amazing life.

CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to this discussion about the Confederate battle flag.

As a daughter of the South, a Representative from Alabama, a native of Selma, Alabama, I have to tell you I cannot believe, in 2015, we are talking about whether or not this body would allow on Federal grounds, Federal cemeteries, and Federal national parks the display, the selling of this Confederate battle flag.

There is no denying that our Constitution talks about "We, the people," and there is no denying that this Confederate flag is controversial. Some see it as heritage, and most see it as hatred.

I can tell you one thing: we, the people, cannot allow on Federal grounds—we all pay taxes and are citizens of this great Nation—and to allow this flag to be sold and to be displayed on Federal land is unacceptable.

I really hope that, when I gathered together 100 Members of Congress in Selma for the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march, it was not a kumbaya moment in Selma in March; rather, I hope that we will do what we promised this Nation we would do, and that is represent we, the people, by taking down this flag and not displaying it on any grounds.

PENNSYLVANIA OREO PLANT CLOSURE

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

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, many of us were proudly waving our flag, celebrating the Fourth of July, and also rooting on the successful women's soccer team in winning the World Cup.

Unfortunately, at the very same time we were doing that, displaying our patriotism, the company that makes Oreo cookies and Ritz crackers, two very well-known American brands, decided that, for the first time in 60 years, they would close their legendary Philadelphia plant in the heart of my district, laying off over 300 workers because they are shipping the jobs to Monterrey, Mexico.

Now, keep in mind, this is a company, Mondelez, that is in no way in financial disarray. In fact, their revenues last year topped \$50 billion. This plant that was closed is profitable, but not profitable enough.

But there is good news. I do congratulate their CEO, Ms. Irene Rosenfeld, who got a 50 percent pay increase in the last few months at the same very time over 300 workers from my district were getting laid off.

Mr. Speaker, it is not right. Say “no” to Oreo.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we have just learned that the Interior Appropriations bill will be pulled from the floor today.

A number of Southern “irreconcilable” Republican Members apparently planned to vote against the bill, unless it permitted the display of the Confederate battle flag in our national parks and permitted vendors to sell Confederate souvenirs. This is unbelievable, and I say that as a Southern representative.

It is unbelievable, after the unspeakable tragedy in Charleston and the action in the South Carolina Legislature yesterday to remove the battle flag from South Carolina’s Capitol grounds. But the House Republican leadership last night chose to accommodate the Southern Republican irreconcilables with an amendment, and now, they are pulling the Interior bill, lest the irreconcilables bring it down.

Mr. Speaker, we shouldn’t have to debate whether a symbol of hatred and oppression in our Nation’s darkest hour should be displayed on Federal lands. Is the Republican majority really that out of touch? Let us join together to take down that battle flag.

CONFEDERATE FLAG

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, so I have heard that the Republicans have pulled their Interior Appropriations bill from the floor, and I sure hope it is because they have reconsidered their support for flying the Confederate battle flag, overturning an earlier decision of this very body by unanimous voice vote to take it down.

Last night, unbelievably, unforgivably, House Republicans acted to uphold the Confederate battle flag at the very moment that South Carolina was voting to take it down. House Republicans surreptitiously rushed to have National Park Service continue to sell this symbol of hate and to keep the Confederate flag flying on Federal lands.

Even worse, House Republicans tried to cloak this shady move by wrapping it in language about our American flag and the MIA-POW flag—how dare they.

Sears, Amazon, and many other retailers have stopped selling that symbol of hate, and that is what a Repub-

lican State Representative in South Carolina tearfully called it.

It is astonishing that the Republicans are so out of touch. We cannot allow this shameful decision to hold. Take down the flag.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, a strong nuclear agreement that truly forestalls Iran’s weapons breakout ability could be positive for regional and national security. However, I fear too many concessions are being made to secure a deal, and a bad deal will be worse than no deal at all.

We must remember Iran sponsors terrorism throughout the region. They are constantly provocative and a serious threat toward our ally Israel.

We all want to see the threat of war with Iran diminished and to disable their nuclear pursuits, but giving them too much to secure a vapid deal will only increase Iran’s threat. That is why any agreement must have unassailable standards for inspections any time in any place.

Access to all background on their prior military nuclear research must also be in the agreement. The strictest limits on centrifuges and enrichments must be there. A breakout time of no less than 1 year and a phased performance-based sanctions relief and airtight snapback sanctions when Iran violates these standards must also be included. Anything less should be rejected.

CALVERT AMENDMENT

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, when we were beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge and attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery, there were officers of the law wearing the Confederate battle flag on their helmet.

When the Klan marched through our neighborhoods in Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, countless homes in Birmingham were bombed and burned. When they set fire to Black churches throughout the South, the Confederate battle flag was the symbol of their cruelty and injustice.

There is no way, but no way that the Federal Government should ever display this flag on any Federal site or sell it on Federal property. It is a symbol of division and a symbol of separation. It is a symbol of hate. It is a relic of our dark past.

We must defeat every attempt to return this flag to Federal properties.

□ 1230

SOUTH CAROLINA’S REMOVAL OF THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, following the horrific murder of nine of my constituents during their Bible study class at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, many Members of this body came to Charleston to help celebrate the life and legacy of Reverend Senator Clementa Pinckney.

I thank the Speaker of the House and the bipartisan delegation for coming, showing their concern.

And I thank the Governor of South Carolina for calling for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the State house grounds.

At 4 o’clock this afternoon, she is going to sign the bill, which passed this morning around 1:30 a.m. by a vote of 94–20, to remove that flag from the State house grounds. Tomorrow morning at 10 o’clock, they will remove that flag.

I cannot believe that today we have been asked to condone a backward step. Why we in this body would do such is beyond me.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 13, yeas 402, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 424]

AYES—13

Bass	Doggett	Johnson (GA)
Blumenauer	Farr	Lee
Boyle, Brendan	Gallego	Schakowsky
F.	Grijalva	Slaughter
Castro (TX)	Jackson Lee	

NOES—402

Abraham	Bishop (UT)	Calvert
Adams	Black	Capps
Aderholt	Blackburn	Capuano
Aguilar	Blum	Cárdenas
Allen	Bonamici	Carney
Amash	Bost	Carson (IN)
Ashford	Boustany	Carter (GA)
Babin	Brady (TX)	Carter (TX)
Barletta	Brat	Cartwright
Barr	Bridenstine	Castor (FL)
Barton	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Beatty	Brooks (IN)	Chaffetz
Becerra	Brownley (CA)	Chu, Judy
Benishek	Buchanan	Cicilline
Bera	Bucshon	Clark (MA)
Beyer	Burgess	Clarke (NY)
Bilirakis	Bustos	Clawson (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Butterfield	Clay
Bishop (MI)	Byrne	Cleaver