

guns are not to be used lightly, and taken lightly, and we can begin focusing on how we can work together instead of we can be split apart. Only by working together are we going to resolve the problems in the challenge of violence and crime and too much use of guns.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### A SAD WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, some might say that this was the week that was. It is gone now. But we have to live by what we accomplished. We will have to go back to our constituents and be able to defend the legitimacy of the U.S. Congress in its legislative agenda, whether it helps or hurts. I do not know about anyone else, Mr. Speaker, but the Mac that is in front of us here kills. I know it kills because I sat in a committee on the Judiciary hearing, called by Congressman SCHUMER yesterday, and heard several victims speak about assault weapons killing. These witnesses told stories of a tragedy on a New York train. The victims of a son in a DC police station. They also talked about the loss of a wife and a mother in a San Francisco law firm. They did not talk from bitterness from the perspective of I do not love this country, but they lost their loved ones, and they were simply pleading for a reasonable ear to listen to their outcry and their outrage. And you know what? They said we could do something about it. And that was to maintain the ban on assault weapons.

I committed to them yesterday that I would listen to them. Tragically, today that outcry, that plea, that eloquent silence of their lost loved one fell on deaf ears because we did not listen.

Today we now have repealed the ban on assault weapons as it winds its way to the U.S. Senate. Yet as we do that, we found a colleague on the Republican side noting the words quoted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, "I trust Hamas more, terrorists that provided several bombings in Israel, more than I trust my own Government." These are the words that have generated a weakened antiterrorist bill. The week that was.

These are the words that generated into the repeal of the assault weapons ban. "I trust the Hamas more than I trust my Government."

Ladies and gentlemen, we must stand up for what is right in this country, be-

lief in the American flag. When I say to you that was the week that was, we now have an education policy that cuts \$3.3 billion, so we have an attack on Goals 2000, several of our title programs that help children to learn, closing the door on education. That was the week that was.

Tomorrow I will join in with your people who will be spending the day trying to register to get a summer job, a mere opportunity to be exposed to a work experience. I had such a young person in my office. They called one day and said they could not come to work because they did not have the proper clothes to wear in an office. I said, "If you have got to wear a paper bag, come on, because it is about you having an experience." But right now, in the budget of the United States of America, we have no money for summer jobs for our youth. Some of those dollars could be utilized to help their parents during troubling times.

This was the week that was. The Hamas statement; \$3.3 billion cut from education; now the assault weapons going forth in this Nation; and, yes, an indictment of what we believe in for our children; no summer jobs for young people across this Nation; young people who are trying every day to stand up for what is right, young people who are trying not to be in gangs.

I do not know about my colleagues, but this was a very sad week. But we have another next week, and I am going to try my hardest to work on behalf of the American people and the great people of the 18th Congressional District.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ALL-AMERICAN JUNIOR GUILDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, this clearly has not been a happy day here. We have talked about issues that divide rather than bring us together. But I would like to talk about something that does bring us together. It is something that happened several weeks ago when a group from the district that I represent, in upstate New York, in Jamestown, NY, came down and entertained and gave joy and perspective to a whole group of us, those of us who were particularly interested in the Appalachian Regional Commission and the things that it did.

Frankly, I would like to talk about this in a way that is sort of unusual. I would like to talk about names, and if you would bear with me, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the names involved, this the All-American Junior Guilders, great young group of people, happy, positive, the people who are going to be leading our country in the years ahead. They are associated with the Lucille Ball Theater. Lucille Ball incidentally, was born in upstate New York. And the driver and the life giver

of this group is a lady called Helen Merrill. She has been involved with the theater for over 30 years and has been the spark of this thing, and you just feel better just seeing her and being around her.

They performed at lots of pretty significant places: the White House, Oprey Land, Disney World, Kennedy Center. These kids range in age from about 7 to 16. It is an all-volunteer organization. It really makes you proud to sort of be with them.

What I would like to do, if you would bear with me, is let me mention some of the names and it is going to be a long list, but I think it is important that each person as an individual is recognized here.

First of all, there is a lady called Mrs. Lucille Miller, who is the musical director. She has been a great help for Helen Merrill. Then there is Mary Jane Gerstel, choreographer; Jim Jones, technical director; Bob Servis, on drums; and Tiffany Wakeley, student assistant to the director. All people who keep this organization alive as kids go from grade to grade to grade.

What I would like to do is to mention the names of these children. They are all from upstate New York. I am very proud of the fact that they are, because I was born and brought up there and they are terrific people.

Let me just mention them:

Leah Gerstel, Chad Wakeley, Tiffany Gale Wakeley, Nichole Adams, Alycia Anderson, Ashley Arnone, Trisha Configlio, Jamielee Bonfiglio-Davis, Beth Ann Calzone, Laura Calzone, Erik Carlson-Coulter, Shane Comber, Lindsay Ann Coons, Jillian D'Angelo, Rachel D'Angelo, Carmaine Davis, Steve Davis, Kara DeAngelo, Mary Evelyn Demarco, Alexis Denn, Chelsea Denn, Melissa Rachelle Ferraro, Andrew Freeman, Kevin Fuller, Rachael Gerstel, Nicole Gullo, Alan Paul Gustafson, Jr., Scott Hannon, Shawn Hannon, Jessica Herron, Emily Huffman, Holly Louise Jones, Cory King, Chrystal Kota, Katie McMaster, Jennifer Lynn Murray, Ashley Muscarella, Jamin Scott Peace, Lynnsey Penna, Rachael Penna, Aubrey Perlee, Francis Peterson, Brenda Proestler, Anthony Sali, Lindsey Michelle Saullo, Crystal Swan, and Jessica Wheeler.

There is so much that we talk about in terms of the unhappiness of this world. These people give us happy memories. They are the light of our future, and I am very proud to mention their names and to be associated with them.

#### CANCER CLUSTER IN OCEAN COUNTY, NJ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I take out this special order this afternoon to bring to the attention of my colleagues

a very, very important and a very, very unhappy circumstance that has occurred in my district. Many of you may have watched the CBS Evening News last night and observed an alarming segment of the news about a situation in Toms River, NJ. Toms River is in Dover Township in Ocean County.

Unfortunately, over the past several years, the rate of brain and central nervous system cancers in children has increased very dramatically. As a matter of fact, it has increased far beyond what would be expected if you looked at some kind of a national average or at a normal town. In Ocean County itself, as a matter of fact, 54 children have been diagnosed with brain or central nervous system cancer since between 1979 and 1991, just those several years. This is a rate which is far in excess of what we would expect to find.

In Toms River, there were eight children diagnosed with those types of cancers when you would expect an average of maybe two. So this is obviously many times higher than we would expect and has created a very difficult situation and, of course, has frightened many of us who live in that area.

Back in New Jersey, there are a number of efforts under way to try and do something about this, about this situation, and of course, before we can do anything about it, the situation has to be defined so that we can know what caused it.

There are citizens groups which have formed. For example, there is a citizens group which is very, very active which is known as Oceans of Love. Its leader, a lady by the name of Linda Gillick, who has been very active over the years, has done much good for families that have been affected. As a matter of fact, here 17-year-old son, Michael, is one of the children that is affected by this condition.

Also back in New Jersey, State Senator Andrew Ciesla and his two running mates in the State assembly, Assemblyman Holzapfel and Assemblyman Wolfe, have introduced legislation to provide \$400,000 to go toward a definition of the problem, to try to study the situation, to find out what it is that may have caused the situation to occur.

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Here in the Congress, on a bipartisan basis, we are taking steps to try to do likewise. The administration has been brought into this, the Clinton administration has been brought into this, and I understand there is a good possibility that assets of the Federal Government will be made available through the administration.

Yesterday, I, together with a number of other concerned Members of Congress, introduced legislation here to match the State bill of \$400,000, so we would have a total of \$800,000 to look at this problem and provide a study and report so we can take corrective measures once we know what has happened.

Mr. Speaker, as this bill proceeds through the legislative channels here

in Washington, I hope that we will have support, and I am sure we will have support, of Members from both sides of the aisle. This is obviously a situation which must be corrected. There are some suspected carcinogens in the area which need to be looked at, which need to be studied, which may be the root cause. Of course, this needs to be looked at more carefully in order to make sure that we know what it is that is happening.

Last night there was a meeting in the township, and 1,000 community members showed up to express their concern. If you could read the accounts of that or hear from the people who were there, you would understand just how difficult and frightening this situation is.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will be able to move with dispatch, either through the administration or through the Congress or both, to bring to bear the assets, the financial capabilities, and the personnel which are embodied in the Federal Government, in order to quickly and efficiently define this situation, define a solution to the situation, and get this episode behind us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to express these thoughts here this afternoon.

#### COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT MUST ITSELF BE ABOVE REPROACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Ms. SLAUGHTER] is recognized for 1 minute.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned today. I am very concerned about the ability of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to conduct its business in a fair and impartial manner, because of press reports that we have seen throughout this Congress expressing doubts about the committee's failure to uphold the bipartisan standard of fairness for which it is well-known.

Just yesterday I read a press report about a new breach or possible breach of impartiality, where the committee was accused of communicating with a Member who was under review. Surely, Mr. Speaker, this must not happen. It is totally unacceptable.

The group in this House that is charged and given the privilege of maintaining the ethics and the decorum of this House must not itself come under reproach.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### THE WEEK THAT WAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, this indeed was a week that was, but I hope this is no indication of what our future may be. This is the week where we cut \$3.5 billion from education funds. Yes, this is the week where we denied aliens who are here on the soil access to free education. Yes, this is the week where we also gave, I think, a very poor example that we have to have assault weapons in order to feel protected in the sanctity of our home.

Mr. Speaker, this was the week that was. But I hope and pray this is no indication about the future that is to come.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation deserves a future that is worthy of its past.

In the past, we led the world in education. Today, we trail many nations in Europe and Asia.

In the past, we adequately invested in education, spending 10 percent of our funds. Today, we spend roughly 1 percent, and worse, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to cut another 25 percent of those funds.

It should, therefore, not surprise us, Mr. Speaker, that Japan, which now leads America in education, also leads America in the sale of many products and services.

It should not surprise us that we have a balance of trade deficit with Japan.

Education and our economic position are tied together.

We all know the old adage, "If you build a better mousetrap, the world will beat a path to your door."

We can not build better mousetraps without a solid foundation of education in this country.

We cannot compete globally, without education at home.

Yet, Members of this House have voted to further cripple education by making the largest cuts in America's history, with overall funding of the Department of Education likely to be reduced by 25 percent.

These cuts will affect basic reading, writing and math skills—skills that shape the workers and managers of tomorrow.

These cuts will mean fewer computers in the classroom, and worse, fewer teachers to educate and train our future work force.

These cuts could mean that some 45,000 teachers will get layoff notices in April, making classrooms more crowded and teaching more difficult.

We must restore these cuts, we must invest in education to provide greater educational opportunities for America's children, America's families and America's workers—so that they will be ready to meet the challenges of the changing global economy.

Japan and China recognize the value of education.

That is why they are using their resources and sending more and more of their young people to the United States for an education.