

other, a stupid and spineless follower. Two insignificant, pathetic nobodies who barged into my life and took away my child. They had no right to decide if anyone lives or dies, yet they took the liberty of walking away with the life of my child.

The leader made the fateful decision to have his lackey discharge a weapon in broad daylight into a park behind a school where scores of children congregated because he was mad. Even after hurting my child, he neither ran like the coward he is nor admitted his involvement like the man he should have been; rather he stood on the street and drank alcoholic beverages as though hurting a child made him thirsty. The circumstances surrounding the loss of my little girl makes me light hearted with nervous rage.

The leader came to my country, my state, my city, my neighborhood, took my child's life and stole her future. Because he was mad, he committed an act from which none of us can ever recover. Not my family, not the shooter's family or even his family. His arrogance and leadership over those in the gang made for a potent mix and we, my family and the community, paid the price for it. He came here thinking that he could do whatever he wanted to whomever he wanted, whenever he wanted and would suffer no consequences. This makes him extremely dangerous to the general public.

After the guilty verdict for the shooter, I happened to run into Susanna Rosa, who proceeded to tell me that that shooter was a good kid and that the gang threatened him. They told him to do it or else they would kill him. She let me know that he'd graduated from high school and everything. Well, the shooter is stupid and lacks moral character. He let a person who is of no importance tell him to commit an act with wide-ranging consequences. Why? To defend him from an argument that he could have and should have walked away from. The only person wielding a gun out there was the shooter. He hid near a car like a 2-year-old and came out gun blazing like an Old West villain to defend someone else. Nothing Ms. Rosa told me changes my opinion at all. I will accept no excuses. My hatred has not dimmed but flares white-hot at the idea of the destruction he's caused in our lives, throwing away his own in the process for a nothing, a nobody.

I had the opportunity to observe the shooter and watched him smile. He neither smirked nor grinned, but smiled a big smile when he sat at the defense table towards the end of the trial. My stomach clinched and my skin became flushed. I was mad, just like his leader, the arrogant nobody who he came to rescue, but I did nothing, nor did I try to enlist anyone to do anything. The leader and his defender should have done the same thing and none of us would be here today and my little girl would be finishing her first year of high school.

During the trial, the shooter had a number of family members and friends at court to support him. He didn't consider those same people who sat behind him and gave him them their strength. He didn't think about those people then. No. He thought only about rescuing his leader from an argument by using armed violence. High school diploma or not, if he's stupid and dangerous enough to let someone convince him to hurt others, then he needs to be taken off the street for the rest of his life.

They took away her life and her future, her sister Joyce's best friend, her brother Antwun's protector and my dearly loved child and teacher.

What they did is nothing less than an act of domestic terrorism. They took Schanna Danielle Gayden, just 13 years old, and left in their wake a destroyed family, distraught

friends and a traumatized community. Despite their actions, Schanna actually brought the community together. People recognized how special she is and they came together for her and for us. They stood vigil with us during the darkest hours of our lives and they stand with us still. Schanna touched more people in her 13 years than I have during my entire life and continues to do so. She has an intangible gift for which people would recognize and respond.

A tree was planted and a stone set up in her memory in the park where she suffered such a terrible hurt. The park has also been dedicated to her memory. This is the same park where so many children came to play or just watch the world go by. In fact, had they been just a little earlier, I could have been their victim, and my Schanna would still be here to continue the path she set out for herself. I've done all I'm going to do in this life, whereas she hadn't even begun. But it says something about her as a person that a park would be dedicated to her and a memorial tree and stone placed in her memory. On June 27, 2009, there will also be a tree planted at the cemetery where she has been laid to rest. It will be dedicated to her and all of the children lost to violence. These actions say that she is not disposable, the damage done is not collateral. She is important, not just to her family, but to her friends and community.

It is fortunate for them that I was not responsible for charging them with a crime. If I were, they would have been charged with aggravated theft for stealing my baby's life, a gift which is truly priceless and cannot be replaced; and attempted murder, for all the people who were there who could have also been victims. Were it up to me, life without parole is nothing less than they would receive. With that sentence, Your Honor, I am being generous.

However, I do request that because of their deplorable and thoughtless actions, sickening behavior and blatant disregard for all life, and the convictions that stemmed from these, I am respectfully requesting that you, the Honorable Judge Nicholas T. Ford, sentence both defendants to the maximum punishment allowed by law.

Thank you for your consideration.

#### RECOGNIZING THE VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITH THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers who assist the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. These volunteers work with deputies and civilian staff to help inmates to improve their lives during incarceration and to prepare them for a successful transition back into the community.

With more than 500 deputies, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office is the largest Sheriff's office in Virginia and among the largest in the country. These deputies perform invaluable services for Fairfax County residents to include providing court security, managing the detention center, serving the civil law process. Volunteers with the Sheriff's Office help provide inmate programs and services at the Adult Detention Center (ADC) and Pre-Release Center, including mental health counseling, religious services, alcohol and drug support groups, health education, library services and job training.

Volunteers complete a Sheriff's Office training program and also work closely with staff to ensure that best practices are followed. A recent study completed at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center showed the significant impact that detention center rehabilitation programs can provide. The efforts of these volunteers improve the lives of those incarcerated, reduce recidivism, and make our communities safer.

Each year, the Sheriff's Office hosts a luncheon to thank all of the dedicated individuals who help make the volunteer program a success. The office also recognizes one individual in each service area and it is my honor to recognize these extraordinary citizens:

#### EDUCATION

Bill Richey shows tremendous dedication as he works to help Hispanic inmates improve their literacy level and enable them to take better advantage of the educational resources provided to inmates. He works very hard to ensure that these inmates achieve some measure of education to provide a much needed tool on their pathways to success.

#### ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES

Noah Freeman recognized the need to provide more substance abuse services and helped to coordinate with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) to provide greater resources and assistance to those in need. A testament to his impact is witnessed daily as individuals he assisted share the message and practices of AA with their fellow inmates.

#### CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE

Celine Baker serves as the volunteer female chaplaincy coordinator. She has worked tirelessly to launch new services, develop a consistent ministry strategy for female inmates, coordinate one-on-one ministry for female inmates, and provide counsel and advice to volunteers, staff, and the chaplains. Celine often dedicates in excess of 25 volunteer hours per week and consistently exemplifies the character and integrity of the chaplaincy office.

#### OPPORTUNITIES, ALTERNATIVES, and RESOURCES

Ben Perchik began to volunteer at the Adult Detention Center with the goal of "generating good." He has succeeded in this effort and has even received letters from several past students naming Ben as the person who most positively affected their lives. Since beginning to volunteer with OAR in 2004, he has consistently undertaken more responsibility and currently serves a facilitator for two classes—Life Skills and Fatherhood.

#### SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Norma "Timmie" Edwards has served as a volunteer at the Adult Detention Center longer than some employees have worked there. In fact, the Sheriff's Office volunteer program does not know how long it has been and she cannot remember! Ms. Timmie's commitment to serve the inmates at the Adult Detention Center is impressive for its longevity and her passion. As she reluctantly ends her time volunteering at the Adult Detention Center, there is no doubt about the inspiration she has provided for inmates, volunteers, and staff.

The outstanding efforts of the above-mentioned individuals are particularly noteworthy but one must acknowledge the nearly 300 volunteers who have contributed their time and support to the Sheriff's Office during the past year. These volunteers provide services that help to place inmates on a path to success. They offer their time that could be spent elsewhere to provide encouragement and support

that will improve lives during incarceration and provide for a successful transition to help get inmates back on their feet. The efforts of each and every one of these volunteers is worthy of our praise

The staff of Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry should be commended for their critical role in administering the volunteer program. The efforts of these staffers maximize the contributions of volunteers in the most effective way and provide the support that makes this program a success.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the contributions these individuals and all of the volunteers supporting the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. The selfless commitment of these individuals helps to provide enumerable benefits to Northern Virginia and life-changing services to the inmates being served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall vote No. 193 (Motion to suspend the rules and Agree to H.R. 388), "nay" on Rollcall vote No. 194 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 411), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 195 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 1219).

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2024, THE COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE ADVANCED SAFETY TECHNOLOGY TAX ACT OF 2009

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 2024, the Commercial Motor Vehicle Advanced Safety Technology Tax Act of 2009. This bill is an important step toward improving safety in the commercial vehicle industry. It offers tax credits to incentivize businesses to implement proven safety systems for their fleet. These market-ready technologies will help reduce the number of truck-related crashes, injuries and fatalities on our Nation's roads.

H.R. 2404 addresses a number of critical concerns. First, it identifies widely recognized technologies that are proven to increase safety on our roads. Brake stroke monitoring, collision warning, lane departure warning and vehicle stability systems are proven to reduce collisions, rollovers and crashes resulting from brake failure. We know from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's, FMCSA, 2006 Large Truck Crash Causation Study that these are the most prevalent types of large truck crashes.

Second, during these challenging economic times, there is no better way to move busi-

nesses in the right direction on increasing their safety systems than to provide tax incentives, reducing their financial burdens. This is especially important considering that 95 percent of all trucking companies have fewer than 20 trucks, making almost the entire industry one composed of small businesses.

Finally, this bill takes an appropriate long-term view of emerging safety systems technology by allowing the FMCSA or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to add qualified safety systems for this tax incentive, once they are proven to significantly enhance the safety or security of drivers and vehicles. I strongly believe that GPS navigation devices for trucks should be made eligible for this incentive. In order to certify this technology as a proven safety system, I have asked the FMCSA to study the effectiveness of GPS navigation devices for trucks and their ability to improve safety for drivers and vehicles. In addition, I have asked the Federal Highway Administration to ensure that any real-time information programs implemented by the Department of Transportation include truck safety as one of its major determinants of effective real-time data collection and dissemination.

There are cutting edge technologies in the navigational device, mapping software and data collection industries that are available and deployed to fleets right now. However, with so many small trucking companies and owner/operator small businesses, not all fleets have access to these sophisticated systems. In addition, challenges remain in the industry with respect to timely and accurate data collection specific to trucks, including changing road conditions or restrictions, as well as grade inclines and declines. There is also a lack of information dissemination to drivers, fleet managers and dispatch centers with no real national framework for real-time data, especially for interstate trucking needs. Unfortunately, my district has seen the tragic consequences of these gaps first hand.

Last September, a tractor trailer filled with over 75,000 pounds of onions was routed onto the Angeles Crest Highway in Southern California, State Rte. 2, by a driver using a GPS navigation device seeking the shortest route to his destination. The Angeles Crest Highway is not suitable for tractor trailers due to its turns and grade inclines and declines. However, the road is often used by drivers as a short-cut in order to avoid congestion on 1-210 and 1-5. With his brakes losing function on the decline into the City of La Cañada Flintridge, the driver lost control of the truck and it plowed through one of the main intersections in the city, through a parking lot, and fortunately only resulted in one injury. Earlier this month, on April 1, an eerily similar accident took place at exactly the same location, but the result was tragically fatal. A driver was using the same Angeles Crest Highway short-cut. His brakes were seen smoking, indicating they had burned out on the steep grade of the road. He hit a vehicle, killing Angel and Angelina Posca, a father and his 12-year-old daughter; struck several more vehicles seriously injuring a dozen more individuals, three critically; and crashed through a bookstore in a local shopping center, causing significant property damage. While the investigation is ongoing, we know that there was a GPS navigation device in the cab of that truck.

In the aftermath of these accidents, our local leaders in La Cañada Flintridge have

been working tirelessly to find solutions that will prevent this kind of accident from happening again in our area and in any other community across the country. I am very pleased that CalTrans banned truck traffic on Angeles Crest Highway for 90 days and that they are now working with the city and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on mitigation measures that will ensure this road remains free of trucks. I also applaud California State Assemblyman Anthony Portantino and State Senator Carol Liu for introducing State legislation to prohibit, with specified exemptions, truck traffic on the Angeles Crest Highway. I am honored to be working alongside our local leaders in pursuing all means necessary to improve safety on our roads. Like them, I am committed to seeing real-time information provided to drivers through GPS navigation devices that can relay the kind of information drivers need to make the safest decisions on the road.

I strongly believe we must partner cutting-edge safety systems with the kinds of incentives provided in this bill to improve truck safety on our roads. I want to thank my colleagues MIKE THOMPSON and GEOFF DAVIS for providing the leadership they have on this issue and am proud to join them in this effort. I encourage all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

EARTH DAY 2009

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, Earth Day 2009 marks the 39th year in which we've set aside a day to reflect upon our solemn responsibility to protect the environment from the adverse effects of human activity and preserve it for future generations. Earth Day reminds us of our nation's obligation to be good stewards of the planet—a responsibility both moral and practical, personal and collective.

As individuals, we are learning to assess our "footprint" and to recognize that the decisions we make on a daily basis—the cars we drive, the foods we eat, the energy we consume—must be measured against not only our own comfort, but also the sustainability of our planet and its limited resources. It is a personal obligation that cannot be taken lightly; an ethos that firmly commits each of us to passing the great inheritance we have been given to our children in a better form than it was given to us.

As communities, we must reconcile the competing demands of economic development with those of responsible stewardship. It's a particular challenge in high growth areas like the one I represent. My district, the Research Triangle area of North Carolina, has been widely recognized as one of the best areas in the country to live, work, raise a family, and start a business. It is the fastest growing metro region in the country, on track to double in population over the next 20 years, and the dramatic population expansion will bring significant environmental challenges in tow.

We know that we must grow, and we embrace the economic opportunities that such growth presents. But how will we grow? To