

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further proceedings on this resolution will be postponed.

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RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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□ 1355

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BONO MACK) at 1 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

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EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE  
REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, proceedings will now resume on the resolution (H. Res. 32) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed earlier today, 4 hours and 6 minutes of debate remained on the resolution.

The gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) has 2 hours remaining, and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR) has 2 hours and 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK).

Mrs. MYRICK. I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

I think like everyone else who is here, I'm here today in support of this resolution, not only because it recognizes what happened in that tragic situation that just shocked and saddened all of us on Saturday, but I think most people in America were really just in a state of shock and not actually knowing what to do at that time when we saw what was happening, not just to our friend, GABBY GIFFORDS, who is a friend with everyone here, but also to all of the other families that were touched by this.

It goes so deep in the Tucson community when you look at the six people who gave their lives and the people who are still in the hospital fighting for their lives and all the heroes of that day. We keep hearing story after story after story of the heroes that emerged, just ordinary, everyday Americans who do what we do in situations like that. We don't think about ourselves, but we come forward to help the other person. And there were so many people like

that who literally saved lives, GABBY's staff members, who were so heroic at this time, and just the shock that all of them I know are still going through. But I know that they are really heartened by the fact that most people in America are just reaching out to them, and people are saying, what can I do, how can I help, where can I be of service to this situation?

And that's what we do in America is we come together. We pull together. We say, okay, we need to be Americans and Americans first. And I think that's what we're seeing out of this. And I just hope that we, throughout this country, can continue to maintain that feeling of goodwill toward one another, of wanting to help one another, of wanting to reach out to one another and wanting to work together no matter where we are in the country, because that's what makes us great.

So our prayers and our support are with GABBY and with the others, and they will continue to be. The reports appear to continue to be good, which is so gratifying and so heartening to all of us. And we all look forward to the day when she's back here standing on this floor with the rest of us.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I thank Mr. PASTOR for yielding.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my community in Florida, the Tampa Bay area, I rise to honor my friend and colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff and the other victims of the Arizona shooting tragedy. The arc of time of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' service to her community and in the U.S. House so far has proven to be a time of change and challenge.

□ 1400

Through it all, Representative GIFFORDS has been a model public servant. When we were sworn in 4 years ago, Congresswoman GIFFORDS and I arrived as part of a class, Republican and Democrat, that had very high ideals. She was a leader from the very beginning. We adopted ethics reform. We bolstered veterans. We sought modern solutions for energy challenges. We helped more students attend college. And she, particularly, promoted scientific innovation.

She sought a seat on the Armed Services Committee at a time when our country was struggling with the war in Iraq. She sought that seat because she wanted to ensure that the military personnel and the bases in her district had a champion—and did they ever.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS rose quickly to become a leader on solar energy and on immigration reform. GABBY works to strike a balance with pragmatic policies that actually work. And whether it was President Bush or President Obama, Congresswoman GIFFORDS spoke up boldly for additional resources on the U.S. border.

I know it sounds like a modern fairy tale, that a beautiful, smart congress-

woman marries an astronaut, but a love of science and a love of their country brought them together. She was a champion for NASA and space exploration before she married Captain Mark Kelly, but she has become one of the greatest advocates for the mission of NASA.

In 2007, our economy began to contract and people lost jobs, and Representative GIFFORDS stood up to fight for them, for help for the Tucson area and for our great country. It has not been easy, but GABBY does not give up. As one of the more youthful Members of Congress, Congresswoman GIFFORDS has served at a time when the first President of our generation was elected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. It is a time of hope and promise, but in the middle of a time of great economic challenge for Arizona, for Florida, and for all of America. But GABBY GIFFORDS has an optimistic eye to the future. She believes that working together we can solve many of the challenges before us. And in her honor we must recommit to doing so.

From the stories of the victims and the heroes in Tucson, it is obvious that it is a community composed of remarkable individuals. And it may explain why the Tucson area has sent such a remarkable public servant to represent them.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. FLEMING.

Mr. FLEMING. I thank my friend from California.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32. Last week, in an act of cowardly violence, our friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, was gunned down at a public event intended to give her constituents a forum to express their opinions. While our Nation honors, mourns, and remembers those hurt and killed in this senseless tragedy, it is imperative that we strengthen our resolve as public servants to not let these acts deter us from the important work we do and from who we are.

America was founded on the idea that the people have direct access to their elected representatives, and as long as I serve, I plan to continue that tradition. As Speaker BOEHNER so eloquently put it, no act, no matter how heinous, must be allowed to stop us from our duty.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her family, and all those who suffered from last week's events.

Finally, God bless GABBY GIFFORDS. God bless the victims of this tragedy. God bless this institution. And God bless the United States of America.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota, let me offer my heartfelt condolences to those brave Americans who lost their lives in the tragedy at Tucson, and let me offer wishes of a very speedy recovery for those people who are wounded, including our own friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS. And also, let me offer congratulations to those heroic people who jumped up to help their fellow Americans at a time of tragedy and need.

It would be very human for anyone to be a little bit shy about coming to a public event after hearing about a tragedy like this. But I think that in the spirit of GABBY GIFFORDS, we should reaffirm and rededicate ourselves to public access, public engagement.

I don't think it would be honoring her great work that she and we expect for her to carry on if we didn't get right back out there and engage in a spirited conversation about the shape and destiny of our democracy. And so I think it is important to make a very bold statement that we will reaffirm our dedication to having a robust, open access, and free democracy by not letting forces of fear and hatred, desperation and madness deter us from this very important and noble enterprise.

God bless America, and we wait for and we look forward to a speedy recovery from our colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER).

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I wish I didn't have to rise today in support of this resolution because it was a sad day for America last Saturday.

But let me say this: On behalf of the people of the 19th Congressional District, whom I represent, we send our heartfelt condolences to the families and the friends and the loved ones of those who were killed in this senseless attack.

We also offer our prayers for GABBY and the others who are making recovery from this act as well. You know, as I read through this resolution, and as many of you like I have been watching TV, Saturday was a bad day. It was a horrible day for America. Dana and I were in the grocery store shopping when I got the notice that my friend GABBY, our colleague GABBY, had been shot, along with others. It was terrible. As we have gotten an opportunity to watch over the last few days, what we learned is that out of this horrific act, we saw some of the things that make America great. We saw people tackle the attacker. We saw people offer assistance to GABBY and others. We saw a man shield his wife from the attacker. We saw the first responders do remarkable work in getting people to the hospital in what would be record time. We saw so many of the good things about

America at a time when we saw one of the bad things.

You know, as I was walking over here, I was thinking about Wednesday, I guess a week ago today, coming down on the elevator with Mark and GABBY and her parents. We had a wonderful visit. I have had an opportunity to serve on the Science Committee with GABBY. I went to lunch with her. She has a little interest in space, in case you didn't know it. And how sometimes we take for granted our friends and acquaintances and life itself, and how in just a moment life can change.

So today we offer this resolution to recognize some good things about our country, to wish our good friend GABBY a complete recovery and to come back here, and we offer our thoughts and prayers for our country. God bless America.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, many of us have just come from a congressional prayer service for the victims of the terrible tragedy in Arizona where we sang "Heal Us Now."

We all know in this body that GABBY GIFFORDS is one of our brightest lights: smart, fair, courageous, and considerate of people of all points of view. She is a very effective legislator and a caring and thoughtful friend. And the people of Arizona could not have a better representative in this United States Congress.

On Saturday, she was doing the job she loves so dearly and takes so seriously: meeting with her constituents and listening to their concerns when this senseless act of violence occurred.

We come together to grieve for those who were killed, including GABBY's talented and energetic outreach director, Gabe Zimmerman; to pray for the quick recovery of those injured; and to honor those who, in a moment of chaos and violence, took heroic actions that saved the lives of many, including GABBY.

□ 1410

GABBY GIFFORDS is a person who is always thinking of others—her constituents, her staff, her colleagues. I spoke with her frequently during the very tough campaign she went through, and she was always just asking how were her colleagues doing. Today, in that same way, GABBY would want us to be thinking and praying for the others—for her fallen and injured constituents and for her heroic staff.

Gabe Zimmerman died doing what he loved, serving the people of Arizona. His many good works are a testament to the selfless works of public service performed by congressional staff every day for the people of our districts and our Nation.

GABBY GIFFORDS has always conducted herself in a manner that brings honor on this people's House. She passionately advocates for the positions

and issues she cares so deeply about but always in a way that is respectful of opposing views. She is a fierce competitor, but is always considerate of others.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. That is why she was such a good role model for Christina Taylor Green—the 9-year-old girl born on that terrible day of September 11, 2001, and who was gunned down on another awful day for our Nation.

Christina Taylor Green, Gabe Zimmerman, and four others are, tragically, no longer with us. As we mourn their loss, we also pray for the full recovery of those who were injured.

GABBY GIFFORDS' light continues to shine, and she will continue to inspire young and old throughout Arizona and our Nation. God bless GABBY GIFFORDS and all the victims of this horrible tragedy.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON).

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, you know, we all get to know a person through the words of others. For our colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and for everyone affected by the violence in Tucson, the outpouring of prayer and emotion really tells the story of how we are all touched by these sad events.

I think all of us draw strength from one another in hearing the personal stories of relationships that they have had with GABBY, and it really does help us. I thought it would be important for us to also hear just a couple of stories, just a couple of sentiments, from some of GABBY's friends and supporters back home because they know GABBY, perhaps, in a little different way than we do.

Carol Frazier writes, "Many prayers and much love to you and all the victims of this stupid tragedy. GABBY, you are what we need in Congress. I was so impressed with meeting you—that you looked me in the eye and truly listened to what I was saying."

A high school friend, Erika Noebel, writes, "Your entire UHS family is pulling for you. We just love you so much and are so proud to be your constituents."

Scott Smith writes, "I hadn't even heard of you until this tragic event, GABBY, but you are in my thoughts, and I very much hope you pull through this, especially because you were doing your job talking to your constituents when this happened."

I think, like all of us here in the House of Representatives, Cathy Paredes expresses her sentiments best: "Love you, Gabby. Stay strong. We are here for you."

God bless GABBY GIFFORDS.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I am from San Antonio, and in my hometown, about a year and a half ago, a

convenience store owner was murdered by a robber.

The brother of the slain owner observed that both his brother and the murderer got up that same morning and made conscious choices: His brother chose to go to work and support his family—a right and a good thing. The murderer made a choice to rob and kill—an evil and a destructive thing.

On January 8, 2011, in Tucson, many people got up that morning and made a choice to do the right and good thing. Only one person got up that morning and decided to do an evil and destructive thing.

We cannot and will not allow the cruelty of one person to overshadow the goodness that each of his victims represents. We in this Chamber are not helpless. We offer our prayers for those who died and for a speedy recovery for those who have survived.

And, to GABBY, I know we all join in saying: Hurry back. This House needs you. We love you.

But we can do more. We can set an example that creates a fertile environment for constructive discourse that extends beyond the confines of this Capitol.

Despite the heartache and the tragedy of last Saturday, we find solace and inspiration that, in our Nation, the United States of America, the goodness of the many will always triumph over the evil of the few.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MACK).

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with sadness in my heart and a bit of anger about what happened in Tucson.

I cannot help but think that, on that morning, a colleague of ours was doing what she enjoyed, doing what is expected of a Member of Congress—meeting with her constituents, talking about the important issues of the day. She went to work that morning, to the grocery store, to listen to her constituents. For someone to show up and pull the trigger is something that I don't think any of us will ever forget.

I pray for GABBY. My thoughts and prayers go to all of the family members who have been affected by this tragedy.

We hope and we cannot wait for that day when GABBY comes back to this floor—when she walks through that door, when she joins us again, when she casts a vote. Most importantly, though, I cannot wait to see that smile on her face. No matter who you are, whenever you met GABBY, she always greeted you with a smile, with kindness in her heart, with determination and strength.

GABBY, we are praying for you. We pull for you. Our hearts and prayers are with you. You are missed, and we look forward to seeing you back on the floor of the House.

Thank you and God bless you.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. On behalf of all of the people of northern Indiana, we want to express our prayers and thoughts for the victims and the families of those killed and injured in Arizona.

To the staff of Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, we want to thank you for your service to our country and for your sacrifice to our country.

To my friend GABBY GIFFORDS, who I came into Congress with in 2006, we love you and Mark. We miss you and Mark terribly. We are praying for your recovery. We know you are getting stronger every day, and we can't wait to see you back here in the House again in the very, very near future.

May God bless you, and may God bless our beloved country.

□ 1420

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague from California.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution before the House and to pay tribute to my colleague and dear friend, GABBY GIFFORDS. I have been privileged to call her a friend as the chairwoman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee while I was the ranking member.

We found that we share a deep passion for space and NASA, and we have worked closely on these issues together. In sitting in a hearing that GABBY was running with your eyes closed, you would be hard pressed to know who was the Republican and who was the Democrat. And as a freshman Member in Congress, it was heartening to know that while the controversial issues of the day may divide us, there is also room for collaboration and unity on both sides of the aisle. That was because of GABBY.

I have no better bipartisan friend in the Congress than GABBY GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, she is warm and kind, but the GABBY I know is also tough. She will pull through this with her husband, Mark, by her side. I wouldn't bet against her.

Other Members of our House family need our support too. I would like to say a prayer for Gabe Zimmerman and his family, GABBY's staffer who lost his life, as well as Ron Barber and Pam Simon, her other staffers who were victims in this horrible, horrible tragedy.

We must also remember the others who lost their lives or were seriously injured. They are in our hearts and prayers as the Nation begins the healing process.

Madam Speaker, I am going to close my remarks by talking to my friend as if she was here because in many ways she is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague from California.

GABBY, I know you feel things and you hear things. When asked, you squeeze a hand, you hold two fingers up, and you hold a "thumbs up." I know you feel the love and prayers of a Congress, a Nation, and a world that only wants you to have a full and speedy recovery. My friend, right back at you. I will see you when you get back in this Chamber.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sympathy for the victims of the tragedy in Tucson, Arizona, this past Saturday. Like all of us, I mourn for the grievous harm that came to those who attended Congresswoman GIFFORDS' Congress on Your Corner; for our colleague, GABBY, a courageous and conscientious lawmaker whose recovery and good health we all yearn for today; for a 9-year-old child bursting with innocent enthusiasm and great promise; for a respected jurist engaged in a simple act of friendship; for a kind and accomplished staffer; for a loving husband who instinctively shielded his wife from the rain of bullets, and for a husband, also lovingly protective, who was unable to save them off; and, finally, a widowed retiree still giving to her community, all so abruptly and violently losing their lives; and for those who are thankfully recovering, all engaged in the abiding promise of democracy, coming to talk with their Congresswoman, gathering in the parking lot of a local supermarket on a Saturday morning.

This horrific incident has raised many serious questions about appropriately identifying and caring for those who suffer from mental illness, about the accessibility of violent weapons, about the tone and language of our politics today, and about the solemn obligations of elected office in a democratic society—of those serving, of their staff, and of constituents eager to participate and be heard.

But today we honor with our words those who tragically lost their lives and those harmed by this senseless act of violence. We pray for GABBY and all those still recovering; and we remember their families and loved ones now struggling with the immensity of their losses. In the days ahead, however, we must honor and remember them with our actions.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. I want to thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise and join my colleagues—and in fact fellow citizens from across this Nation—in thought and prayer following the tragic assault on GABBY GIFFORDS and 19 others in Tucson. I pray that in these critical

hours GABBY GIFFORDS will heal and begin the path to a fuller recovery.

Just yesterday, I was privileged to join a large number of my freshmen colleagues as we went on a visit to the Walter Reed Army Hospital where we were humbled and inspired by the remarkable strength of severely injured military heroes who are fighting to recover from their wounds. I pray that GABBY GIFFORDS will be provided with a similar resolve.

I pray for those who lost their lives and the families of their loved ones who now struggle with grief. And I think particularly, having been a former prosecutor, of Judge John Roll, whose loss is being deeply felt by our colleagues in their public service from the judiciary. While this tragedy was not related to his duties per se, it is a reminder that our judges too often face threats that impinge on the independence that they must be accorded for our system of government and freedom and, just as importantly, justice, to prosper.

Lastly, I want to express deep condolences to the family of Christina Taylor Green, whose grandfather, Dallas Green, is a member of the Philadelphia community. This tragic incident brought it home in a very personal way to the people of my region. Let us allow this horrible tragedy to inspire all Americans to become better instruments of peace.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Ms. RICHARDSON).

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I concur in expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011.

Like all Americans, on Saturday morning I was not only saddened, but I was sick to my stomach while I watched the horrible attack against my colleague, my office mate for 2 years, Congresswoman GIFFORDS—known as “GABBY” to me—and her staff, her constituents, and all Americans.

We know now that on January 8 Congresswoman GIFFORDS reached out and sought “new ways to reduce the highly partisan divisive tone that all too often dominates our public discourse.” Today, I am going to do exactly that, not in words of criticism, but thoughts of observation and a desire to help.

For lawmakers, whether Federal, State or local, this tragic incident must make us reevaluate our spending priorities and accept the fact that our continued failure to adequately fund mental illness is a mistake. For agencies, whether they be educational, military or private vendors and businesses, we must be diligent in connecting the dots and making use of good technology to have real-time information.

For parents, whether your child, who will always be your child regardless of their age, should not be allowed under

our own roofs to turn their rooms, garages or backyards into private areas where we’re even afraid to tread. For protectors and preservers of the law, it’s not okay to tell me that nothing is wrong with receiving an email that says, “I’m concerned and looking for a good old-fashioned lynching.” For those who debate and protest, it’s not okay to spit, to say racial slurs, to say reload, or to arm, in reference to debate, and it’s also not okay to say a group other than yourself is a Neanderthal and they want people to die quickly.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentlelady an additional minute.

Ms. RICHARDSON. For our courts, even in 1919 and 1931 in the cases of *Schenk v. United States* and *Near v. Minnesota*, our forefathers had the wisdom to know that the most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting “fire” in a theater and causing panic.

So who would tell me that it would be appropriate that on August 17, 2009, that it would be appropriate for a man to carry an AR-15 rifle and a pistol only feet from our President.

And now, for those of us who are here today, we turn to the resolution on the floor.

On page 4, sections 7 and 8, the resolution says that we would have the right of people to peaceably assemble and that all would participate without being silenced for fear of intimidation. I’m sad to say that, yes, even in this own Chamber on these grounds, I don’t think we’ve always fulfilled those words of “peaceable assembly free of intimidation.”

We, too, must not react. But it’s time to act, not just in legislation, but to do what Congresswoman GIFFORDS asked us to do—to reduce the divisive tone in this country. Maybe if we start as leaders, others will follow.

I express condolences. I pray for those on their recovery, and I also commit to work on this issue and to work with my colleagues.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people in upstate New York to express our deepest condolences and sympathies to all of those affected by this horrific tragedy. We pray for those who lost their lives and for the recovery of those wounded in the attack.

I first met GABRIELLE GIFFORDS many years ago at Cornell University where we were graduate students together in the mid-1990s. I did not know her well, but we shared mutual friends who always spoke of her in the kindest of terms. Last night I heard from one of GABBY’s good friends, Colin Forth, and he shared the following:

“GABRIELLE is a strongly principled person who, at Cornell, continually worked toward improvement, finding a way to reach a positive agreement. I found myself continually impressed with her ability to see workable solutions to issues, even when we did not agree on the issue. GABBY is fun, passionate, intelligent, highly competent, and focused. She is a person who turns words into action, something that should be valued now more than ever.”

GABBY, Cornell prays for you, and the citizens of upstate New York are reaching out to all of those families affected by this senseless act of violence and praying that they may find peace, comfort, and healing.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I come here today shaken by an act of horrific proportions and yet heartened by bountiful acts of the human spirit. We are comforted that in these times, the pain and the shock can be lightened, if only temporarily, by knowing that the good overwhelms the bad. I think that is how GABBY would want us to reflect today.

We grieve for the losses and the pain felt in the community of Tucson for ordinary people who we learned are quite extraordinary.

We know the tireless efforts of our own staff who come to work every day with one goal in mind—to help people. That’s why we mourn the loss of Gabe Zimmerman.

But most of all, I come here today to send, in the most public way I can, my love and Mi Shebeirach—a Hebrew prayer for the sick which celebrates the spirit of healing to those recovering from their wounds, and particularly to my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

People beyond GABBY’s district are learning about the political acumen of this talented and engaging leader. As public servants, we do our jobs by listening to the American people—by looking constituents in the eye, assuring them that we want to help, letting them know that we understand with a nod, a handshake, and most often a hug, as GABBY frequently was known to do. To have that important connection so shaken by the attempted assassination of our colleague and friend is devastating.

But GABBY, of all people, was an example of what it means to be connected to your district. I know she wouldn’t stand for this kind of violence, but she also wouldn’t stand for allowing it to stop us from our service.

Whenever she talked about her constituents, she prefaced it with, “I really understand where they are coming from, and we need to solve this problem.”

Her constituents are fortunate to have such a representative with such energy and skill who cares about them so deeply.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. She cares about their concerns, fears, and hopes and knows how to work with people from all political persuasions.

My heart goes out to everyone affected by this massacre, and the shock from it reverberates throughout my community and our country.

So I am listening to my constituents that hope that this tragedy will engage us anew in serious and civil discourse on how we can leave a better world for our children and our grandchildren. That is what GABBY strived to do daily. It is what she would want us to be doing right now.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. I rise today with a heavy heart to join my colleagues in support of this resolution and to honor the innocent Americans whose lives were so senselessly and tragically altered by the events in Tucson last week.

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS was embodying the very essence of what it means to be an elected Representative in our great Republic by meeting and listening to her constituents last Saturday. Gabe Zimmerman, Ron Barber, and Pamela Simon were there, too, doing their jobs like thousands of other dedicated congressional staffers who support us and the work we do here every day in Washington and especially back in our districts.

The Americans who lost their lives on Saturday and the innocent victims who were wounded were performing their civic duty to take an active role in their government, and among them were 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green and Pittsburgh native Judge John Roll.

In our disbelief of the events last week, let us not forget the heroism of those who subdued the attacker preventing further loss of life. They put their own lives on the line to protect their neighbors. They represent the best of America and shine in our darkest hour.

We will not allow this tragedy to weaken our resolve or to undermine the sacred responsibility that we as elected officials have to serve the people we represent. To allow this act of violence to keep us from our duties would be a disservice to the people we honor today, especially GABBY.

GABBY was a friend of mine. We first became friends when I looked at her bio and realized that her family and she were operators and owners of a tire business just as my family was. So not only could GABBY and I talk policy, but we could talk tire; and there are few women that can talk tire like GABBY.

Also, I served on the Armed Services Committee and got to know her very well. We traveled on two trips—one to Afghanistan and one to Iraq. It was the week before her wedding to Mark that we traveled, and she talked about look-

ing forward to her marriage and to future trips. And just last week, we discussed going to Afghanistan again.

So I look forward to GABBY's speedy recovery, for her return here to the House, and for that trip that we will take to Afghanistan to go greet our men and women in harm's way.

May God bless GABBY. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the opportunity to come together to express our sorrow and support for our friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, and the 19 other victims of this senseless rampage.

I cherish the time I spent with GABBY in Tucson to promote the livability of her community. There I've seen firsthand the respect Congresswoman GIFFORDS commanded from the entire civic leadership. I witnessed the emotional connection between GABBY and her political supporters. They knew that she was somebody special, and you could see that she treated each and every one of them the same way.

□ 1440

Then there is the bond between GABBY and her terrific team. It makes it so jarring, the loss of Gabe Zimmerman, the wounding of Rod Barber and Pam Simon of her office. Her outstanding staff is representative of the amazing men and women, over 10,000 in all, here on Capitol Hill and back home, who make the government process possible. They are like family, not just for GABBY. We must do all we can to protect the safety of staff and the employees who serve our country every day.

Finally, this is about our relationship with GABBY and our responsibility to heal and repair. The path forward is illustrated by GABBY herself, the best example I know of someone who uses her intelligence, charm, passion, and commitment to bring people together. Then they can sort out the difficult issues that way, and move forward with the same good humor, skill, and results as GABBY. As she recovers, I hope we can honor her service and sacrifice by doing all that we can to restore that spark, that civility, and that commitment to civilized discourse.

Madam Speaker, that's a tall order. Can we beat the odds? Our dear friend GABBY will show us how, as she is beating the odds right now. I am confident her recovery will be a triumph of her spirit, will, and intellect, and be a further inspiration to us all.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today without a script, but to send my thoughts and prayers, and those of all of the thousands of people from my dis-

trict, out to the Congresswoman's family, to the Congresswoman herself, and to all the families that were affected by such a tragic day in our Nation's history.

We shall never forget what happened last Saturday. But as I walked into work today, and I saw the Sun breaking as it was coming up and shining on the dome of the Capitol, it was a glorious sight. Because what it reminded me is that even in our darkest days this Nation always will rise again. And as we stand here rightfully and pay our respects to our dear colleague and the families that suffered so much, and are suffering as we speak, let us not forget that this Nation will rise, and we will persevere.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. The great State of New York certainly sends their wishes and their prayers to the great State of Arizona. New York State went through a horror the same as Arizona is going through now. It's so parallel it's scary. Six killed, 20 injured, my husband dying, murdered, my son shot. But this is really a message of hope because my son did survive. Many of the victims survived.

But I think the wonderful thing that needs to be out there are the prayers that came through from all parts of this country.

GABBY's staff, you are suffering terribly. Those that have died, your families are suffering terribly. And those that have been wounded have to go through the pain to heal. What I will say to all of you, time will heal you. You will never forget, but time will make you smile again.

GABBY would be so proud of this Chamber today. One of the things that GABBY is known for is how bipartisan she is. And she has brought this Chamber together. It's just a shame that a tragedy has to bring us all together. You know, GABBY's going to be fine, and she will be back here. And she'll be over there hugging people, talking to people. But that's what we as a Nation have to learn. We can disagree, but we need to work together. That is what GABBY wants, and that's what she'll push when she gets back here.

So with that, the prayers of this Nation go to all. God bless our country, God bless the victims.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT).

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor our colleague GABBY GIFFORDS and to mourn the loss of those that died in Tucson on Saturday, and to also pray for those who have been affected by this great tragedy, and to applaud the courage of those who risked their own lives so that others might live, and to thank the first responders and the

health care professionals whose quick action and work saved their lives.

You know, Madam Speaker, nobody ever thought Saturday would happen, especially GABBY. She was just out there doing her job. And when you think of the 20 families, and the community and the Nation, and how we have been affected by this act of violence, you think of the little girl that went there to meet her Congresswoman who never came home. You think about the person that took her, that wonderful neighbor who now will always think about what if I hadn't done this, what if I hadn't said would you like to come?

Madam Speaker, there are so many people affected by this tragedy. And no one can ever understand the mind of a person that would do this random act of violence. But we as a Nation can come together. We can recognize the courage of those that helped stop him. We can recognize the courage of those that are fighting for their lives, especially our GABBY. We can pray especially that this Nation will never again see that kind of tragedy.

And most importantly, Madam Speaker, we as a Nation—and I know people have said to me, well, what can we do? We as a Nation can pray. Get down on our knees every morning and every night. Pray for GABBY. Pray for her family. Pray for those folks that are suffering in the hospital. Pray for those moms and those dads and those brothers and those sisters and those aunts and those uncles and those grandparents that will never touch the family members again. Pray for GABBY's staff. Mourn the loss of her staffer. Mourn the loss of all six who perished. But most importantly, to pray that the folks that have been affected can have the courage to go on.

You know, we had a prayer service. And Cantor Leon Sher wrote a beautiful song. And at the end of the song he says:

We pray for healing of the people,  
We pray for healing of the land.

And peace for every race and nation,  
Every child, every woman, every man.

I don't think any words can sum up what we need to do here now today. So let us pray for GABBY that she comes back and she fights for what she believes in.

I welcome her spirited debate and her smile and her Pollyanna point of view. But let us hope that all of those that have been touched by this tragedy can heal and heal in a short run. Thank you. God bless this country, and God bless all in it.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Madam Speaker, my wife, Vivian, and I were shocked and saddened to learn of the awful events in Tucson, Arizona, last Saturday. First and foremost, our prayers are with GABBY GIFFORDS, her family, her staff, and the other victims of the senseless tragedy.

Since she was first elected in 2006, GABBY GIFFORDS has been one of the brightest lights in this Congress. I have gotten to know her personally in the Blue Dog Coalition, and she is my friend. I have been especially impressed by her intelligence, her warm personality, and her singular ability to bridge differences and bring people together. These qualities, and the fact that she was attacked while serving her constituents, make the situation all the more heartbreaking.

In the book of Isaiah, it is written, "Come let us reason together." Let us then take this opportunity to pause and reflect on the lives of the victims, the heroism of the first responders, and the bedrock principle of American democracy—reaffirmed in the resolution before us today—the right to assemble peacefully and to petition the government for the redress of grievances.

□ 1450

We must not let violence or the threat of violence deter us from representing our constituents and doing the Nation's business. God bless GABBY GIFFORDS, the other injured, the families of those who were killed, the people of Arizona and the United States of America.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, Saturday was indeed a grim day for our Nation. It was the day our beloved colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, was attacked while doing her job listening to her constituents. It was GABBY herself who aptly said just last year that the term "representative" is more of a job "description" than a job "title."

As we all work to represent our constituents and our States and Nation, the Speaker is correct when he said that "an attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve." Last weekend, GABBY's efforts to serve her constituents brought her staff, herself and her constituents into a line of fire from a deranged man who shot 21 defenseless, innocent citizens.

Six people died and many were wounded. Phyllis Schneck was a 79-year-old native of New Jersey who lived during the summer on Old Lake End Road in the Green Pond section of Rockaway Township in my congressional district. She was one of those. Mrs. Schneck and her late husband, Ernie, lived for years in Towaco, and they were active members of the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church. She was a member of the Montville Women's Club. She was a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Hers, as were the others, were lives well lived.

Madam Speaker, our minds reel from Saturday's violence. Our hearts ache for those slain and injured and their

families and friends. However, as is so often the case when an act of random cruelty bewilders and depresses us, exceptional displays of generosity, courage and heroism can serve as a potent counterweight. These acts are a reminder of the extraordinary selflessness that people are capable of.

Let's remember and salute those acts today. Mark and GABBY, we are thinking of you. We are behind you all the time. We love you.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution and join my dear colleagues and on behalf of the people of northern Ohio, who join citizens across our Nation in pouring out compassion and healing to the families and citizens of Arizona who have been so harmed and wounded at liberty's doorstep, the U.S. House of Representatives.

Let our prayers and comfort flow to the victims, to the healers, to those who must carry forward with full memory and understanding of what has transpired and why. Let us strive to do and to be so much better as a people. Our collective feeling of brotherly and sisterly love and the unity that flows from it holds the power to heal.

We all feel that desire. Our constituents feel that desire. Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, our beloved colleague, is fighting to show us the way forward. We pray for her and her family. We pray for all victims and their families. We pray for all those who are taking this difficult journey with them.

What a remarkable young woman GABBY is. She represents the highest aspirations of America. She is kind, talented, highly motivated, effervescent and so in love with her husband, Mark. We know GABBY is a fighter and so very enjoyable to be with.

We embrace her, her family, her staff with the same affection as would she. And if GABBY were able at this moment, we know she would be embracing the victims of the fallen and their loved ones.

This is a moment for America to take stock of itself. No one should have to endure what these citizens have had to endure. Frankly, no one should have had to endure the mean-spirited and inciteful political campaigns GABBY did.

In the sweep of history, this attack was an attack on liberty. It desecrates our worth as a people. We must all search our souls. How could such a heinous act transpire?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. KAPTUR. If the evidence shows that unaddressed mental illness, coupled with guns and disturbing Internet postings were contributing factors, as when two Capitol Police officers were gunned down just a decade ago outside

this Chamber, then Congress must finally, finally engage that which to date it has been unwilling to fully embrace and understand. When human tragedy falls at your knees, do you look away, or do you stoop to pick up the pieces and ask why? Why?

May God bless America. May the campaigns of 2012 be conducted in a manner that brings credit to our Nation's highest aspirations, mindful of the suffering that has occurred. And may God give America and her leaders and her people great wisdom in the days ahead.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to express my condolences to the families and loved ones of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staffer, Gabe Zimmerman, and all the victims of last Saturday's shooting.

Like all my colleagues here today, I have struggled to make sense out of this horrible tragedy since first hearing the news that our good friend and colleague had been viciously attacked. As I watched the news and learned about the innocent lives that had been cut short, it became painfully clear to me that nothing will ever be able to explain such an atrocity.

Politics is the art of genteel disagreement. Actions like those we witnessed last Saturday have no place, no excuse, no explanation, nor rationalization in our democratic system.

What I do know is that GABBY is fighting hard for her life, fighting with the same tenacity that fueled her passion for public service, and I take comfort in the knowledge that my friend is winning that battle.

Like GABBY, we must never stop fighting for our great democracy and the time-honored traditions that keep it strong. Neither we nor our constituents, all 300-plus million of them, will be intimidated by the violent actions of the few.

As Americans, we will come together and mourn for those who lost their lives that day, and we will honor the survivors and heroes of this tragedy that stood strong together in the face of madness.

Madam Speaker, I join all my colleagues here today to express my support for this resolution, and I know I speak for all of my constituents in the 13th District of Illinois when I say that we share in the loss of our friends from Arizona, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this difficult time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY).

Mr. CLAY. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan resolution and to offer my thoughts and prayers for the swift healing and complete recovery of my

friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS.

In addition to the dedicated members of her staff who were also wounded and all of the other innocent victims of this unconscionable act of violence, I want to express my sincere sympathies to the families of U.S. District Court Judge John Roll, Gabe Zimmerman, a valued member of our congressional family, Dorwan Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck and most especially Christina Taylor Green, a remarkable 9-year-old child who had just won her first election to the student council and wanted to speak to her Congresswoman about a career in public service.

Madam Speaker, as Speaker BOEHNER so aptly noted just moments after this tragedy occurred, an attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve. I would venture to say that all of us who have the high honor of serving in this body, the people's House, have searched our souls to try to understand the nature of this attack on the very core of our democracy.

Like most of us, Congresswoman GIFFORDS knows that there is simply no substitute for spending time with your constituents. The plain truth is that you cannot effectively represent your community in Congress unless you make time to interact with the people who hired you for this job.

And as for me, I will continue to do that because I truly believe that even in the face of this kind of mindless violence, constituents have a right to question their Members of Congress directly. And we, who have been entrusted with the honor of public service, must never allow fear or threats to undermine that fundamental principle.

□ 1500

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, so we may be able to equalize the remaining time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE).

Mr. ALTMIRE. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of western Pennsylvania, I rise to pay tribute and offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the 20 victims of the tragedy in Tucson. And as a member of the class of 2006, I grew to know GABBY quite well, and we look forward to the day, hopefully very soon, when she will join us back here in this Chamber. And I know her well enough to know that her first priority on a day like today would be to honor the 19 constituents who were taken and affected by this tragedy, especially the six who lost their lives.

So it is in that spirit that I honor, and we all honor in this Chamber, 63-year-old U.S. district judge John Roll, a Pittsburgh native, an active Catholic parishioner; 9-year-old Christina Green, a Pennsylvania native, third grader who had already told her parents she was looking forward to a ca-

reer in public service and attending college, she hoped and said, at Penn State; 30-year-old Gabe Zimmerman, Gabrielle's staffer, newly engaged, master of social work, who dedicated his life to public service; 79-year-old Phyllis Schneck, New Jersey native, church volunteer, loved cooking and spending time with her family; 76-year-old Dorwan Stoddard, devout Christian, survivor of 17 heart stents, who died saving the life of his wife, a grade school friend; and 76-year-old Dorothy Morris. We pay tribute to them all, and we thank them for their service to this country.

And we will not let this attack deter us from carrying on the business of the American people and engaging in civil discourse in our representative democracy.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, what does the Lord require? Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. These words from the prophet Micah are as true today as they were when first spoken. They provide guidance to how we in Congress can lead by example for everyone in this country as we try to come to terms with the tragedy in Arizona.

We can work with each other with justice, with mercy and humility in our hearts. When Micah said these words, they were guidance. Today they are a plea. And I know that we can heed these words.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we keep all the victims and the families of this tragedy in our prayers, and I especially ask that we keep GABBY in our hearts.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32.

I had the opportunity to work with Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS over the last 2 years on the House Armed Services Committee, and I have always admired the gentlelady from Arizona for her dedication to her constituents and to our Nation.

This resolution before us today condemns in the strongest possible terms the horrific attack which occurred last Saturday in Tucson, Arizona. This resolution offers the heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed in that attack. It expresses a hope for the rapid and complete recovery of those wounded in the shootings. It applauds the bravery and quick thinking exhibited by those who prevented the gunman from potentially taking more lives. It recognizes the service of the first responders to race to the scene, and the health care professionals who tended to the victims.

This resolution stands firm in the belief in a democracy in which all can

participate and in which intimidation and threats of violence cannot silence the voices of any American.

This resolution honors the service and leadership of Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, a distinguished Member of this House, as she courageously fights to recover.

Madam Speaker, when adjourning today, let us do so out of respect for the victims of this attack.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON).

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, we know GABRIELLE GIFFORDS as a colleague and a friend, a member of our congressional class of 2006, the majority makers. She is an outstanding public servant whose sole and constant commitment is to help make her district and our Nation as great as it can be.

The shooting that has left GABBY fighting to recover and that has claimed the lives of her outreach director, Gabe Zimmerman, and five other innocent victims was horrific and stunning. Our thoughts and prayers go out to GABBY, her husband, Mark, and their family and to all of the victims and their families.

In recent days the Nation has learned much about GABBY and her commitment to kindness and service. We've learned also of other extraordinary Americans present on that day. We learned of Christina Taylor Green, a child full of grace born on 9/11, taken away far too soon but who will be remembered always not only by her beautiful family, but by a grieving Nation that glimpsed her spirit, leaving her goodness impressed forever on our collective memory.

America has learned of Gabe Zimmerman, a faithful public servant who used his life to make a difference in his country and for his community; and of Judge Roll, husband and father, committed to justice and the rule of law; of Dorothy Morris, beloved wife of George Morris, who also was critically wounded as he tried to shield her from the bullet; and of Phyllis Schneck, loving mother of three and beloved grandmother of seven; and of Dorwan Stoddard, who acted with great love in giving his life to save his wife.

We remember these extraordinary people and the others who were injured, and we remember the heroes who came to the aid of fellow citizens, these ordinary yet great Americans reflecting the best of our Nation and its citizenry. And we join together today to condemn this violent rampage.

But let us also join together to express our appreciation for those who offered themselves up in service, like GABBY, Gabe and Judge Roll, and all who were there participating in our representative Republic. Let us reach out one to another in common purpose. It has been said, God has not called us to see through each other, but to see each other through. Let it be so.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I am shocked and saddened by the senseless act of violence that occurred Saturday against Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff and members of the Tucson community. Just 2 days before this horrific attack, GABBY joined me and many other Members of Congress in reading aloud the U.S. Constitution on the House floor. It was my honor to yield to GABBY to read the First Amendment. And on Saturday, she and those participating in her Congress on the Corner event were exercising their First Amendment freedoms of free speech and to peaceably assemble.

It is unconscionable that anyone would take violent action to deprive someone of their life and liberty. Our thoughts and prayers are with GABBY, her family, her staff and others who were affected by Saturday's tragic events in Tucson. While this tragedy serves as an unfortunate reminder of evil actions, it must also remind us of the good in people as we hear the stories of the heroes of that day, people who gave their lives, people who saved other lives.

We as Members of Congress cannot allow this senseless act of violence that occurred against Congresswoman GIFFORDS to deter us from our jobs or deter the American people from exercising their precious freedoms.

□ 1510

I read again the words that Ms. GIFFORDS read on the floor on Thursday.

Amendment I: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Madam Speaker, I don't know if Ms. GIFFORDS spoke on the floor after that. Those may have been the last words she uttered on the floor of the House. I join my colleagues in praying that we will see her again on this floor exercising her precious freedoms.

God bless her and all of the victims of this tragedy.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, on Saturday morning in Tucson, it started out in a very good way. It started out with a number of people who wanted to engage in one of the great American traditions, a tradition of our government which is that we have a discussion of ideas. That is what America is about, a competition of ideas. And so we had Congresswoman GIFFORDS and we had her staff and we had members of the community gather. That is a positive start to that day. Of course that positive start was destroyed by

the tragic acts which have been recounted by so many on the floor.

We all step back in shock and horror and sadness at what took place in Tucson. It is an attack on the individuals that clearly affects all of their lives. It is also an attack on what this country is about. It is important that as we hope and pray for the recovery of the victims, and we hope and pray for understanding for the families of the victims, and we mourn the loss of those who perished that day, it is important that we also recognize that they were great Americans who were there to exercise their right of assembly, and the great American tradition which represents what this government is all about, which is we can sit down and have discussions. We can disagree with each other. It is okay to disagree with each other. That is the strength of this country. That is the idea behind America, that we have the opportunity to look for the best ideas from wherever they come.

When it comes to public service, it would be good for all of us to recognize the ideals of our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS. She was a good friend, a good colleague, someone who had the right ideas and motivations when she first got to Congress, and continues to represent those motivations. She is someone who is smart, articulate, looking to solve problems, and someone who knew how to be compassionate for her constituents.

I think everybody in this well probably knows a story where GABBY talked to them about her constituents in Tucson and an issue that mattered to her. That is what impresses me about Representative GIFFORDS. It is a model that I think we can all remember and continue to follow as we do our best for our constituents.

Madam Speaker, I close by saying I wish all the best to the families, the victims, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, let me preface my remarks by saying I barely know GABBY. As a freshman Member of the House, I was sworn in last week with a lot of colleagues I hope to get to know over the coming days. But I rise today in concert with my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle to express the sadness and grief that all in our country feel over the loss of life in Tucson this past weekend.

The citizens of South Carolina mourn with our Nation, and we lift up in prayer the family and friends of the victims in Arizona. Much of the coverage and attention has been centered around our wounded colleague, GABBY. My family and I join in praying for her healing, and for the others who have been wounded.

I also want to celebrate the lives of the six who were lost: 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, an inspiration to us

all; Judge John Roll; congressional staffer Gabriel Zimmerman; Pastor Dorwan Stoddard; Dorothy Morris; and Phyllis Schneck.

While we mourn their loss, we also remember what they meant to their families, their friends, and to their communities. I join with all of my fellow Americans in honoring their lives and in praying that God's comfort may rest upon their families. May God bless them and may He continue to bless America.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the dean of the Congress, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. I thank my dear friend for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise, as do all of my colleagues, with sincere condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the horrific events of last Saturday. The victims amongst them were a young student, a number of congressional staff members, one of our dear friends and colleagues who has served with distinction and remarkable ability and grace, and an outstanding Federal judge.

During my career in Congress, I have witnessed horrific events: the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. I have seen firsthand anger brought on by landmark life-changing legislation such as the civil rights bill. Like other Members, I have found the current state of affairs is also somewhat new to me.

One of my colleagues, as we were going to the memorial service, observed to me that he had as a judge sent large numbers of people off to jail, but he had never been as concerned about his own personal safety and that of his family as he is today. Our Founding Fathers wanted our system of government to be a vigorous one, full of enthusiastic and vibrant debate. But I don't believe that they wanted to see the kind of debate and discussion that we are seeing both in this place and in other places of public assembly.

I want to read a few of the statements that I have seen that I find to be pretty awful. Here is one:

"People are really looking toward those Second Amendment remedies and saying, my goodness, what can we do to turn this country around? I'll tell you, the first thing we need to do is to take (blank) out." That blank is for the name of the person.

The next one: "I want people in (blank) armed and dangerous on this issue of the energy tax because we need to fight back."

"I want to kill (blank) with a shovel."

"Every night I get down on my knees and pray (blank) will burst into flames."

"Our Nation was founded on violence. The option is on the table. I don't

think that we should ever remove anything from the table as it relates to our liberties and our freedoms."

"Don't retreat, reload!"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DINGELL. I thank the gentleman.

I would observe, we saw the district of GABRIELLE GIFFORDS had crosshairs put on it. As a lifetime rifleman and shooter, I know what crosshairs signify when you put them on somebody, and I know what happened.

One other quotation: "If ballots don't work, bullets will."

So here we have a denigration of the great debate and the system of government of ours where threats are made. Members of this body have a duty to speak out, as do members of the media who have been saying these kinds of things and leading us into a time when we create a threat not just to the lives and well-being of our Members but also to the lives and well-being of this country and its debates.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, last week GABBY GIFFORDS did speak the words of the First Amendment here on the floor. They talk about the right of citizens of the United States to come and plead their case to their Members of Congress and to seek the redress of their grievances. I think our Founding Fathers anticipated that we would be involved in robust and vigorous debate, but they also hoped that we would utilize some sense of civility as we did so.

I would like to read an e-mail that I received in my office from a constituent that I think would bring a smile to the lips of GABBY GIFFORDS, and it responds in some way to what the gentleman from Michigan has just said.

These are those words:

"Dear Representative LUNGREN: I write to share with you my feelings upon hearing the news of the terrible shooting in Tucson, Arizona. I find I am overwhelmed by emotions. In the past, and I suspect in the future, I have disagreed with you on many of the political things that you have said and done. I have voted against you. I have even felt and expressed frustration and anger about you. I wish now to state that if unlikely circumstances arose and I were in a position to protect you from physical attack, I would do whatever I possibly could to preserve your safety and your person at whatever risk to myself.

□ 1520

"Our democracy and freedom cannot survive if elected officials feel threatened and find themselves having to consider their physical safety as they make the decisions and fill the responsibilities of office. Please continue to do your job as a Member of Congress as

best you can. I will continue to disagree with you when and as needed. I am just one man, but all of us citizens can only do what we can do.

"I, for one, will never threaten, encourage or resort to any violence whatsoever while debating, disputing, and arguing politics. For whatever tiny weight I count for in the great sea of Americans, I want you to feel safe from any harm.

"Make your decisions, and vote your votes in Congress—please try and not be such an idiot Republican about it—and know that you are safe in the Third District for all of your life if I shall have any say in the matter.

"Thanks for all the work that you do. Most sincerely . . ."

That's a message that I know GABBY would want us to embrace and one that would not only give her resolve but would, hopefully, attract her sense of humor as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE).

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart I stand today to support this resolution and to encourage Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, her family and all victims of the Arizona shooting. I am in prayer for their well-being, their healing and their peace.

GABBY and I served together on the Science and Technology Committee, and we lived in the same DC apartment building. I learned of her passion for people and for her commitment to service. In her honor, I call for a return to compassion and an abandonment of hate-laden rhetoric.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

If I could speak directly to the American people, I would ask them to combat this great darkness with love, not with fear. I would ask them to combat this great darkness with a tide of hope and faith and perseverance and to understand our unity.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN).

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and lift up in our prayers my friend and colleague from Arizona, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS; the dedicated public servants on her staff and the citizens engaged in the most fundamental practice of our American democracy—meeting with their Representatives at a Congress on Your Corner public event. In the aftermath of this horrific attack, we have learned a lot about the lives and actions of the victims and heroes of last Saturday. They reflect the very best of America.

GABBY not only spoke out regarding the importance of government by the people, but she lived it every day. Last week, I sat here on this floor of the House, in line with GABBY and our colleagues, as we read the U.S. Constitution. The section that she read from this very podium was the First Amendment, which protects the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

I remember thinking to myself what an ideal section for GABBY to read because of her great example as an engaged public servant and as truly being a Representative who stays close to the people.

This resolution before us today is necessary and appropriate but, by itself, will not be long remembered. What will be remembered is our resolve, our unified national resolve, to stand against extreme and divisive rhetoric and against building barriers between citizens and their Representatives that would weaken our democracy and diminish our way of life. An attack on one citizen, while engaging in our representative democracy, is an attack on all citizens and the very foundation of our democracy.

Let us resolve, in honor of all the victims in Tucson, that every Representative and every citizen continue to meet on corners across America to work through our differences, to find common ground and to make progress working together.

To GABBY and every person impacted by this tragedy, we resolve today to always be in your corner.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise on this sad day to join my colleagues in recognizing the lives of those affected by the horrible tragedy in Tucson, Arizona, this past weekend.

As we reflect on this tragic event, the one thing that must be remembered is that our colleague from Arizona, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, was simply doing her job, a job that she loves to do. Meeting with her constituents and providing them with assistance is the basic duty of any Member of Congress. The best and only way for Members of Congress to carry out their oaths is to be with, listen to, and see what our constituents are experiencing. The nameplates on the front of our offices read "Representative." Congresswoman GIFFORDS was doing just as we do day in and day out—representing our citizens at home and here in Washington.

The loss of life and injury suffered by the victims will always be remembered by this body. Whether it was Federal Judge John Roll; Gabe Zimmerman, Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff member; or 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, all of those who lost their lives

or who were injured will hold a special place in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.

We cannot let this random act of heinous violence deter us from our duty to serve our constituents, and I know we will move forward together as a stronger united House.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, last Saturday in Tucson and across the country, so many Americans, including myself, were horrified and deeply saddened by the mass shooting at a congressional outreach event hosted by U.S. Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. The senselessness, the violence and the magnitude of death and injury were stunning and alarming.

It is a personal tragedy. It is a national tragedy. It is heartbreaking and wrenching because we all share in the pride of our representative democracy. Members reaching out to their constituents and constituents having the opportunity formally and informally to talk to their Representatives of Congress is at the core of our responsibilities and is a value we all hold as Americans. So even as we mourn, as Americans, we cannot allow this to diminish or deter our civic interactions.

I ask for my colleagues to join together in honoring those who were killed. My thoughts and my deepest sympathies are with them and with their loved ones.

And, to GABBY, GABBY is our colleague and she is our friend. I share in acknowledging and honoring her commitment to public service and her principled leadership on behalf of her constituents. She has a deep passion for who we are as Americans and for working to find that common ground to meet our Nation's challenges. Her inner strength, determination, and her good spirit are all serving her well as she struggles to recover from her wounds. Reports from her doctors have been remarkably positive.

So my heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with GABBY and with all those injured, and I wish them swift and full recoveries. I extend those thoughts and prayers to her husband, Mark; to all the families and friends of the victims; to GABBY's staff; and to all those affected by this senseless shooting.

I love this country deeply and the values we all share. It is my hope that our Nation will come together to honor those who perished and to affirm our commitment to move forward in a way that allows us to voice our differences and to debate the solutions to our challenges while respecting our shared love and dedication to our great Nation.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN).

□ 1530

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of the victims and in support of my colleague from Arizona, her staff, the loved ones of the victims, and those who bravely and skillfully responded to the attack.

My freshmen colleagues and I have only been here for a few short days, but in Representative GIFFORDS we see the temperament and dedication needed to be good representatives of the people. She embodies these qualities and is an example for everyone here in the people's House.

Let us not forget the personal side of this tragedy. Those lost include two dedicated public servants, a devoted great-grandmother and a loving wife, a heroic husband whose last action was protecting his wife, and a 9-year-old interested in public service. They will all be missed.

In the wake of this tragedy, we find solace and we find power in prayer. My prayers are for the families of the victims, for the speedy recovery of Congresswoman GIFFORDS and all others who were wounded. I pray for law enforcement investigating this cowardly attack. I pray for the medical workers, that their work heals those who have been injured. I pray for this House, its leaders, fellow Members and their staffs. And I pray for our country, asking God for His blessings during this time of grief.

This attack hits each of us in a personal way, but we must resolve to move forward, representing the men and women who sent us here to do our Nation's work.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my sincere condolences to the families of the victims of this senseless tragedy and to the family of our colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. I hope and pray for her quick recovery. And to the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Arizona, we know what you're going through: the life of a 9-year-old who wanted to be a student council representative and was elected to that, Christina Taylor Green; Federal Judge John Roll, father and grandfather; Phyllis Schneck, a former Jerseyite who still loved the New York Giants who, as you may know, play in New Jersey; Gabriel Zimmerman, commander of outreach, who did such a great job for her; and two 76-year-olds, Dorothy Morris and Dorwan Stoddard, who shielded his wife so that she would live.

I thank the leadership for bringing forth this resolution, first acknowledging the victims of the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, and also condemning the act of violence which was a product of hatred that threatens the democracy of this Nation in which all

can participate and in which intimidation and threats of violence cannot silence the voices of any American. Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff members, and constituents were exercising this very privilege on Saturday, January 8, as well as the right afforded to all of us under the First Amendment of the Constitution.

It is ironic that gun violence has, throughout our history, brought down leaders—Abraham Lincoln, 150 years ago, who said all people should be free; our President, John F. Kennedy in 1963, during that time; his brother, Bobby Kennedy, 5 years later; Mohandas Gandhi, who brought India into independence; Tom Mboya, a Kenyan who talked about a united Africa; Yitzhak Rabin, who, if he had lived, I think there would be peace in the Middle East; and then, of course, Dr. Martin Luther King.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PAYNE. So as we think about the tragedy of so many outstanding Americans who have lost their lives, I implore each and every one of us to continue in the spirit of unity, support, and love that often overflows during tragic events. May we continue in such spirits to prevent further acts, for we all know that only love drives out hatred and only good drives out evil.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, we gather here today to honor the victims and the heroes of the tragic shooting that took place in Arizona this past weekend.

GABBY GIFFORDS is one of the best this institution has to offer. I have had the honor of working with her on NASA issues in support of human spaceflight.

GABBY embodies the type of public servant many of us strive to be: smart, kind, and dedicated, fulfilling her duty representing her constituents. That's why she was holding a public meeting on the first weekend of the new session.

I pray for her strong recovery and for her family and staff, and I look forward to working with her once more in this body.

I think in the darkest moments in our history we also see the brightest stars. Those stars are the men who wrestled the gunman to the floor, the woman who kicked the magazine away, the loved ones who protected their spouses and children, the intern who had enough first aid training to put pressure on GABBY's head wound, the first responders who responded to that scene, and the medical teams that got most of the victims into the operating rooms in under 38 minutes.

GABBY's staff so clearly reflects her character and leadership. Gabe Zimmerman lost his life fulfilling his duty,

and two others were wounded. We pray for their recovery and for Gabe's family and friends in this time of tragedy. The efforts of her intern, Daniel Hernandez, may very well have saved GABBY's life, and we will always be grateful for his quick actions.

We also pray for the other victims of this unspeakable act of violence: for Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Judge John Roll. We pray for swift and fair justice for them as well.

As we stand here today, Democrats and Republicans, we are steadfast in our determination to keep representing our constituents. We will not let the tragic events in Tucson change the way we represent the people. We will instead look to Saturday's heroes as a reminder of the real strength that is America.

As Americans, we know that adversity, however tragic, makes us stronger and brings us closer together. That is what GABBY would want. We look forward to the day we welcome her back to this Chamber. God bless America and all her citizens hurting in the wake of this tragedy.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

In the last few days, I have run into scores of people of my district, the Third District of Maryland, who have expressed their shock and their sadness at the events that occurred in Tucson last weekend. On their behalf and for myself, I want to express our deep condolences to the families of all those who were victimized by this tragedy.

A word about GABBY GIFFORDS, our colleague. She and I came in together in the same class. We began in January of 2007. She is everything that a Representative in this body should be. She is thoughtful. She is hardworking. She is compassionate and, to a fault, she is attentive to the concerns of her constituents. That is why she was there at that supermarket last Saturday.

We pray for her speedy recovery. We pray for the recovery of all those who survived this terrible event. We mourn the loss of those who perished, and we send our thoughts and prayers to their families.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington, the former distinguished sheriff of King County, Mr. REICHERT.

Mr. REICHERT. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, there are a few words that have touched me over the last few days that I would like to share. First, thankfulness, thoughtfulness, prayerfulness, patience, wisdom, and hope.

□ 1540

First we should remember those who have lost loved ones, keep them in your thoughts and prayers. They'll not need

them just today, but they'll need them in the weeks, the months, and the years to come. A pain that will never leave their hearts.

Second, thankfulness. We sure thank God for GABBY's remarkable recovery and pray that her recovery continues in a speedy way and in a way that causes her to recover to the point where she can return to this House and work with us again.

And I think of patience and wisdom—and I'm addressing the Speaker but asking the Members of this body to think about patience and wisdom in a moment because first of all, let's respect the investigation that's being conducted by the law enforcement officers across this country, the Federal, local, and State agencies. Let's respect their continued efforts in weeding through the information that they're gathering. Let's be patient when we think about legislation and laws that we might be passing that could inhibit that investigation or maybe even inhibit some of the freedoms that we today enjoy, patience in allowing them to gather the needed information where we can base good decisions on building good laws that protect the citizens of this great Nation.

And lastly hope. Hope, which is a thing we all hold near and dear to our hearts, hope that this country continues to maintain its freedom, hope in the American people, hope that we can all stand together after this tragedy. If there is a silver lining in this tragedy, it is the hope and the strength and the trust that the people of this country can build together to keep this country free.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I want to first say I'm so proud of all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have spoken today. GABBY has brought us all together as never before.

I'm a good friend of GABBY GIFFORDS. She's a good friend of mine. I first met her before she ran for Congress when a mutual friend said to me, You ought to meet this lady. She wants to run for Congress and wants some advice. Would you give it to her? I called GABBY. She called me back. We spoke. And she decided to run, and we've been good friends ever since.

My colleagues have all said it today: GABBY is as kind and as sweet and as nice a person as you could ever meet. She's considerate, she's thoughtful, she's caring, smart, hardworking. It's hard to believe that anyone would want to harm her. She was doing what she always did—going out in service of her constituents, helping her constituents, going out to a shopping center.

You know, I have another connection with GABBY. My son Jonathan attended the University of Arizona, just graduated this year. And she and I spoke many times about Tucson. I have been to Tucson many, many times in these past 5 years. I've even shopped in the

Safeway, tragically, where the gunman shot all of the people, including GABBY.

You know, GABBY said something to me this past August as we recessed. I served as the chair of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and GABBY served on my subcommittee, and we talked about having a field hearing in Tucson. And when I said to her, Let's try to do it in September or October of this year, she said to me, No. You know, the speech, the language has gotten very hostile and people's attitudes toward Washington have been very hostile, and I don't really want to do anything that would show that I'm the Washington person. That's how bad the atmosphere is.

I couldn't help but thinking about that when I heard about the shooting on Saturday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ENGEL. You know, in this country we do our political discourse with balance, not bullets. And although the assassin tried to murder a U.S. Congresswoman, he really was trying to stick a stake or murder American democracy. All of us on both sides of the aisle are not going to let him. We are going to continue to do what we've done before—going out in the street, meeting people, taking care, and helping our constituents. We are going to continue to attend town hall meetings and do the kinds of things that GABBY would want us to do.

I look forward to GABBY returning here. I look forward to working with her again. GABBY GIFFORDS is the best America has to offer, and we honor her and all of the other victims of the shooting today.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart today that I join my colleagues in paying respects to the victims of the senseless tragedy that took place last weekend in Arizona. I extend my prayers to the families of those who lost their lives, to the wounded, and the recovering, and to our dear colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS.

GABBY is an energetic Member of Congress who works and enjoys and treats all of those she meets with decency and kindness. I was here with her just last week while we read the United States Constitution on the floor of this House. GABBY so eloquently read from that bedrock of our democracy the First Amendment. In a direct reflection of her passion for interacting with those she represents, GABBY read of the established right of the people to peaceably assemble.

All of those gathered in Tucson on Saturday were engaging in what should have been a peaceful activity that is absolutely fundamental to our form of government—spending time with the

gentle lady who so proudly advocates on their behalf here in the United States House of Representatives

Among the fallen were Phyllis Schneck, a great-grandmother; Dorothy Morris, a devoted wife; Gabe Zimmerman, a public servant; John Roll, an honorable judge; Christina Taylor Green, a 9-year-old girl who just wanted to learn more about government; and Dorwan Stoddard, a man who gave his life protecting and saving his wife. They are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Founding Fathers made no mistake when they included the right to peaceably assemble among the first tenets of democracy. The inexplicable violence of last Saturday is a stark, tragic reminder that we must never waver in our steadfast support of the First Amendment and the precious freedoms it affords us every day.

As our colleague, GABBY, and all of those directly affected by this tragedy continue to heal from Saturday's incomprehensible events, let us remember the victims and their loved ones in our thoughts and in our prayers and in our actions. As those of us here have known, and as people all throughout the Nation are witnessing, GABBY GIFFORDS is a fighter. Let's keep in our prayers the hope that she once again joins us back here on the floor of this, the people's House.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS is one of the kindest, most thoughtful and hardest working elected officials anywhere. It is a shame that it took a despicable act to shine this bright spotlight on GABBY. She is what virtually every American would say they want in a Member of Congress—smart, open, friendly, intellectually honest, and very brave. She cares passionately about all of her constituents and, as she was demonstrating on Saturday, what they think.

Speaker BOEHNER was absolutely correct when he said an attack on one Member of Congress is an attack on all, but Saturday's attack was more than an assault on a Congresswoman. It was an attack on American democracy. GABBY was doing what her job title implied—listening to her constituents at an event set up like hundreds before, conducting the business essential to effective representation. Dozens of citizens were actively participating in our democracy, asking questions and expressing themselves. The attack on GIFFORDS was an attack on them as well.

Earth-shaking tragedies sometimes create the opportunity for our society to have a reasoned discussion on critically important issues that we often cannot have under normal circumstances. In the wake of catastrophe, our hope is that such a discussion can strengthen our democracy and help our Nation emerge stronger.

Responsibility for this weekend's shooting in Tucson rests solely on the shoulders of the madman who pulled the trigger. However, it is our responsibility, as citizens in the world's strongest democracy, to seriously consider the impact that the accessibility of high-capacity weapons and the increased vitriol of public dialogue have on impressionable or unstable individuals and our society as a whole.

For all of the pain and agony caused by this tragedy, it could also be a turning point for the country. Already leaders from across the political spectrum are discussing the vital need to turn down the rhetorical volume and dial back extremism for the sake of our Nation.

□ 1550

We all are praying for GABBY's recovery and for the families of those who were killed and wounded Saturday. Let each of us resolve to do all we can to protect our democracy from those who would deny and subvert it.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM).

Mr. GRIMM. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to come to the House floor to honor the victims of the tragic shooting in Arizona. The six individuals killed and the 14 wounded, including Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, were victims of a heinous and despicable act of violence. On behalf of the constituents of the 13th District of New York, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to the victims, their families and friends, and to the staff of Congresswoman GIFFORDS. We will continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

As we come together as a Congress and a country to mourn and reflect, I urge my colleagues not to lose sight of what we have been called here to do and what we are here to accomplish. Congresswoman GIFFORDS was doing the exact thing I hope we will all continue to do—going out into her community and taking the time to meet with, to talk to, and most of all, to listen to her constituents. This is what keeps us connected to the heartbeat of our district. This is what allows us to effectively serve our constituents and our country. This is what democracy is all about. This is what we have been elected to do.

Additionally, I implore my colleagues to resist the innate temptation to enact reactionary legislation or call for extreme measures that could adversely impact the institution of the House of Representatives. Giving due respect to the Capitol Police and the FBI, we should allow them to do their jobs, to thoroughly investigate, and afford them the time to offer us recommendations for our safety and that of our staff and constituents.

I hope that moving forward we will not let this incident create distance between ourselves and those we have

been sent here to represent. We cannot let this senseless, this completely senseless act of violence keep us from serving our districts as effectively as possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. GRIMM. As we move forward, let us remember that, while we should remain aware of the danger around us, we cannot live in fear or isolate ourselves in a bubble. Today, I mourn with my colleagues and the Nation, and I will continue to pray for those lost and to pray for Congresswoman GIFFORDS and the others injured in the attack and that they will have a full and speedy recovery.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I take to the floor of the House today to pay tribute to the fallen, but also to honor the heroes, to express grief in the wake of tragedy, but also to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who showed incredible bravery in the face of evil.

Madam Speaker, I come to the floor of the House today to honor my colleague and friend GABBY GIFFORDS, because I want every American to know that she exemplifies what every American wants to see in their Member of Congress. The GABBY I know is smart and hard working. The GABBY that southern Arizona knows is personable and accessible. The GABBY we all know is dedicated and humble.

GABBY takes her job representing Arizona seriously. She works hard to effect change on the issues that matter most to her southern Arizona constituents. We both served on the Committee on Science and Technology in the last Congress, and I was privileged to be able to collaborate with GABBY on her signature issue—solar energy development. She worked tirelessly to create not only clean energy for America, but also new jobs for Americans.

We are both residents of border States, albeit different borders, and I was proud to cosponsor her legislation to help give businesses the tools necessary to enforce immigration standards. I admired her strong commitment to our national defense and her tireless dedication to the men and women who serve our country in uniform. But even more than her legislative prowess, it is her smile and friendly nature that makes her a beloved figure here in the Halls of Congress as well as in her home district. And we all pray for her speedy recovery.

We also mourn the loss of those who were senselessly murdered while participating in the most fundamental democratic tradition—talking with the people who represent us; victims like 9-year-old Christina Taylor, who was just elected to her student council.

Christina attended Representative GIFFORDS' Congress on Your Corner event because she cared about her community, and a neighbor thought she would enjoy it.

But while this tragedy has extinguished lives of promise, it has also revealed some incredible heroes. Today we stand shoulder to shoulder and pray for the speedy recovery of our friend and the other wounded victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PETERS. And I just say to all, God bless the victims and their families; God bless all those who are grieving, and God bless America.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I stand today in support of the resolution; I stand today in support of the victims of the devastating events of last Saturday, and I stand today in honor of one of our own, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS was the youngest woman elected to the Arizona State Senate and now, at the Federal level, continues to serve the constituents of her hometown with enthusiasm and distinction. It was in this spirit of statesmanship that she participated in her Congress on Your Corner event at the grocery store in Tucson, Arizona. This event characterizes the Congresswoman's approach to her constituents. She recognizes the importance of remaining open to the people—retail representation—absolutely necessary in order to fully grasp the extent of the needs and views of those she served.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS epitomizes the term "public servant," understanding that she works for the people first, last, and always.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS was doing the work of the American people when her life was threatened. And after she recovers, I have no doubt that she will return with that same energy and determination.

I look forward to working with her again. I had the opportunity to partner with her on the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus in support of motorcycle safety awareness, and I saw that energy and enthusiasm firsthand.

One of our primary freedoms that our forefathers upheld was the right to life. After years of fighting on behalf of others, Congresswoman GIFFORDS must now fight for her own life. And let us also remember the doctors and the nurses, the first responders who played such a pivotal role in preventing an even greater loss of life last Saturday.

I will keep Congresswoman GIFFORDS and those who were injured and their families in my prayers. I also offer my deepest condolences to the families of Christina Taylor Green, U.S. District Judge John M. Roll, Gabe Zimmerman,

Phyllis Schneck, Dorothy Morris, and Dorwan Stoddard.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the violence in Tucson and the shooting of my very good friend GABBY GIFFORDS is not a time for partisanship and it is not a time for politics. It is a time for reflection, and I have three brief reflections to share with my colleagues.

I knew GABBY pretty well. We weren't best friends, but we were good friends. I was with her and her husband, Mark, on the day that Mark proposed to her. We were in New York, and GABBY and I had several events to do. And Mark kept asking if GABBY could leave early, and I kept saying no. And finally, Mark said, There is no choice. She's leaving early.

I later learned that the reason that she had to leave these events early was because Mark took her to the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point and proposed to her. Most of my constituents now know GABBY GIFFORDS. Few know that this important day in her life occurred on Long Island.

Second reflection, I believe that GABBY would have been uncomfortable with the attention that she is getting today and over the past several days. I believe she would want Americans more focused on the 9-year-old girl who was killed, on the Federal judge who was killed, on the congressional staffer who lost his life, on the others who were killed and wounded.

And my final reflection is this: I believe that we should reject the notion that GABBY's colleagues in Congress need to hide from our constituents, that we should reduce our exposure. This is not the time for us to hide from our constituents. This is the time for us to reassert our connection with our constituents. And this isn't the time for us to hide our opinions.

This is a time for us to reassert our opinions, but to do it without vilifying one another. There is a way to have opinions without necessarily demeaning one another. We have the right to our opinions, but not to be called any more or less of an American with a different opinion.

Opinions and the expression of those opinions are the essence of democracy. They are American. And it is fitting that GABBY GIFFORDS on this floor, at that podium last week, read the First Amendment in the Constitution, which talks about our right to have opinions.

□ 1600

We should continue to express those opinions but do it in a way that would make our children proud of us, do it in a way that is respectful and tolerant. That is exactly what GABBY GIFFORDS did while she was here, and it is exactly what she will do when she returns.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

The tragedy we discuss today is of enormous consequence to the families of those who were killed and wounded and, of course, our hearts go out to them, especially to the member of our own family, congressional family, to the Giffords, but all those who were killed or wounded in this senseless violence that took place in Arizona. This, of course, is not just of great consequence to them but of great consequence to all of us.

There are things that we must learn, and there are events like this that happen that will help us shape what we will do in the future. One thing we must not let this do is to reduce the actual contact between the American people and their elected representatives.

We will not let the acts of a demoralized individual reduce the right of the American people to have direct contact with their Member of the House of Representatives, and we will not let this senseless act of violence diminish or in some way stampede us into in some way diminishing the freedom and reducing the freedom of the American people themselves.

Finally, let me just say there is a positive lesson to be learned from this tragic event, and that is we must make sure that we treat each other better here in Congress, and those of us who are active in the political arena need to understand we need to be kinder to each other. Even as we disagree with each other fervently on policy, there is no reason for us to have insinuations about negative values of the person on the other side of the argument.

We need to make sure that we exemplify for the American people that people can disagree on fundamental issues, even have basic differences in value systems and what their goal is for our government, but still respect the other person's opinion and treat the other person with kindness and dignity. That's one lesson that we need to learn and to make sure the American people see us as an example of that.

Ronald Reagan used to say, be really tough when it comes to policy but, DANA, be really nice to people. Well, that's how Ronald Reagan ended the Cold War. He was really tough on communism, but he was very kind to those people who worked in the Soviet Union, which later led to that disintegration.

Today we need to be kinder to each other. We need to be respectful of the fact that people on the other side of issues are as intelligent as we are and as moral as we are, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't use tough language about those issues. Let's be kinder to each other and let's send that as a present, a get-well message to GABBY, because there is no one else that exem-

plified that better than her. We know that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Congresswoman GIFFORDS and I were on separate sides of a major issue, an issue of great concern to me. I have been on the Science Committee for 22 years, and she was for a totally different approach to the American space program than I have been on. We had some very serious debate on that issue.

I will tell you not only was she kind and articulate, but she was brilliant—which of course I didn't necessarily want her to show that brilliance in her arguments against my arguments. But I remember right here on this floor, after a major debate that we had, I walked over to her when the gavel went down and people were leaving, and I said, you know, you did a great job for your position today. I really respect you more than some of the people on my side of the issue, because you were articulate, you took your responsibility seriously, you have presented your arguments. I just want you to know how much I admire that in you. Keep it up and I know you will be Speaker someday—and I shouldn't say that to my colleagues over here. I don't say that often to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

But that's the type of spirit that she had, and I would hope that we send that message to GABBY and to the rest of the American people today.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, the families of the victims, the people recovering in Tucson and my fellow Arizonans, I want to express a sense of gratitude to all the Members here who have spoken and will speak, for your prayers, for your condolences and your affection you have given all of us.

We thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts. We hope that some of the expressions you have given of showing respect, more respect to each other, more love for each other and disagreeing, debating, but not being disagreeable, will help us do the business of this House.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY), and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI).

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of Satur-

day's shooting in Tucson and pray with all of us for them and their families.

This senseless tragedy has struck at the very foundation of the United States of America, attacking a representative to Congress, a congressional staffer, innocent bystanders in front of a grocery store. But there were heroes who showed up that day: the intern, Daniel Hernandez, who came to GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' aid; the witnesses who immediately tried to help those who were injured; the civilians who bravely stopped the shooter from injuring and inflicting more harm on others; the emergency room personnel; the emergency personnel overall whose decisive action saved other lives. These are the true examples of the spirit of what America is all about.

It's important to remember that this was an outrageous act by a deranged individual. Despite all the talk about tone and rhetoric, it's important to remember that we all on this House floor can disagree without being disagreeable.

The fact is that as public officials, Madam Speaker, being accessible to the public is an important part of our jobs, and we cannot let this tragedy stop us from doing our important work. We are Members of the people's House, and the minute we start separating ourselves from the people is the minute that we weaken our Republic.

The events in Tucson remind us how fragile our lives are. We pray again for the victims and their families, and we remember what really matters and that civility should rule the day.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I thank my colleague from Iowa for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, it's hard, after a long day like this when all of us are feeling so sad and discouraged about the challenges that have been faced by GABBY and her family and others, to actually think of anything that hasn't been said. But I want to reiterate what so many of my colleagues have said, so many of us who consider ourselves friends of GABBY, who are so proud of the work that she has done, who know what a hard fighter GABBY is and hope that she continues to pull through every day.

I sit near GABBY on the Armed Services Committee, and I have never seen GABBY walk into a hearing room without a pile of letters that she plans to sign, a few things that she is going to read, prepared to ask good questions and keep her eye on the conversation and the debate the whole time we are in there. That is just GABBY; she is always working, she is always thinking.

□ 1610

You turn to her and ask her a question. She always has a smile or a little joke or is ready to make a plan for some kind of an outing or a field trip or something that we could all do together. She is a wonderful colleague, as

we can see today, well respected by both sides of the aisle, well regarded by all colleagues, whether they agree or disagree, and highly well regarded back in her home community where she had another hard-fought election but came through.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her. I know GABBY is on the Armed Services Committee because she's a fighter. She's a fighter for the people she represents, and I do believe she's fighting in her hospital room today, fighting for her life alongside her husband.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the others who died alongside where GABBY was lying, who came to that event and were injured, innocent victims—a young woman and a staff member who was dedicated.

Many of us realize when we take this job on that we take a risk, but we often forget the risk of those who serve with us, those young people who come out and stand beside us, the risk that they are also taking just to be with us everywhere we go.

I also want to mention someone else who I was asked to mention who wasn't appearing in the resolution that we talked about earlier today, but Dr. Steven Rayle, a former emergency room physician was just a few feet away from GABBY when the shooting began. In the terrifying moments after the shooting, Rayle was able to use his trained first responder skills to triage what I can only imagine was a terrifying scene. And we owe him a great deal of gratitude.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman 30 additional seconds.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I just again want to thank Dr. Rayle for his heroism and for his being there with GABBY in the first possible moments. We owe him our gratitude, and everyone else who worked so hard to make sure that people were safe as quickly as possible at that scene.

And I echo the remarks of my earlier colleague, DANA ROHRBACHER. I hope this all reminds us to think about how we speak, to think about how we speak with each other, how we conduct our business, and how we move forward. This is a solemn week. We will have many solemn weeks ahead of us, and we have a lot of work to do.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, a distinguished presiding officer of this body, Mrs. BONO MACK.

Mrs. BONO MACK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer a prayer for our Nation. President Abraham Lincoln, during the height of the Civil War and during a very low point in American civility, once told a hushed crowd: "My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of Earth."

My friend, all of our friend, Arizona Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, has believed in that dream for her entire life. Today, she represents a beacon of hope, perhaps "our" last best hope, to restore some measure of civility to the important public debates of our day.

This is not a time to be finger pointing. Rather, this is a time, in memory of all those who died or who were injured during this dark day in our history, to start talking again like friends and neighbors.

Right now, we should be praying for GABBY and all of the other victims of this horrible ordeal. We should be searching our soul as a Nation, asking one important question, a question Abraham Lincoln confronted every single day of his Presidency: How have we allowed hateful rhetoric to paralyze our national debates?

Yes, we all have different points of view, but we should discuss them, and we should debate them without resorting to name-calling or questioning each other's motives. GABBY has always stood for civility. She is the most delightful and the kindest Member of Congress, and I think we've all said that. Her never-ending smile and her unfailing willingness to work in our Nation's best interests have earned her the respect of people everywhere.

I, like all of my colleagues, cannot wait for the day when GABBY walks back onto this floor and she joins us. She is a strong woman with a very unbreakable spirit and a passion for life, her family, her friends, and our great Nation.

Let us all pray to give GABBY the strength to carry her through the difficult days ahead. I believe with all of my heart that GABBY was put on Earth by God to make a difference. And she has. I know, because she's made a difference in my life.

So the next time that a debate heats up and threatens to get ugly, let's remember our responsibilities as leaders. Let's remember what Abraham Lincoln said. Let's take a deep breath and "agree to disagree agreeably." Let's do that for GABBY.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Mr. LOEBSACK. I thank my colleague and friend from Iowa for recognizing me.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues, my constituents, and all Americans in mourning for those who lost their lives in this weekend's heinous event and in praying for those, including our dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, who are fighting to recover.

I have had the honor to serve with GABBY, like many in this body, on the Armed Services Committee since we were both elected in 2006, and I've always been struck by her intelligence and by her commitment to her constituents.

When she and her constituents were attacked on Saturday, she was car-

rying out the most central of our responsibilities as elected representatives, as was already mentioned, and that is making ourselves available to our constituents. That this horrific attack occurred in the middle of a gathering that is the basis of our representative democracy is a reminder to us all that we must all remain constantly committed to upholding the principles upon which our great Nation was founded.

As we come together to offer our prayers to all those involved, I hope that we will carry forward the sentiment that so many have expressed in the last few days, including on the floor of this House of Representatives, that our country's commitment to passionate debate is the heart of our democracy, but that debate must also be rooted in civil discourse and mutual respect. We can, and we should, debate with vigor the pressing challenges facing our Nation, but we must do so in a way that moves our country forward and that is constructive. In part, that will require us to recommit ourselves—recommit ourselves—to civil discourse and honest debate as well as to remaining accessible to our constituents and listening to all viewpoints.

We are a Nation, I believe, that rejects violence. And on a day when we saw really the very worst of humanity, we also saw the very best: individuals who were willing to lay down their lives to save others. Let those folks serve as our inspiration, and let us continue to keep all those affected in our thoughts and prayers and continue to move forward in America in a constructive, positive, and mutually respectful manner.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I haven't gotten to know GABRIELLE GIFFORDS very well yet, and I thank God that by His grace I haven't lost the chance to do so. I didn't know the Americans who came to speak with her that day. But what I do know is that they gathered last Saturday to do something uniquely American.

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS was reaching out and listening to her employers, the American people, and they had come to offer her their guidance, advice, and counsel. In this respect, the attack on GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and her constituents struck at the very heart of our process of representative democracy, that very point where the American people communicate their views to their elected representatives. That is the linchpin in the entire process of self-government.

This was not only an attack on those who serve; it was an attack on every citizen who steps forward to offer honest advice and counsel and, yes, even criticism to those they have selected to serve them and to serve the Nation.

It is the nature and strength of participatory democracy to have sincere and passionate differences of opinion. But in moments like this, we see the very best of the American people come forward. We put aside our differences and disagreements, and we stand together as one Nation, the American Nation; one race, the American race; one people, the American people. Men and women of goodwill cease to be Republicans or Democrats. We suspend our political agendas; we silence the partisan recriminations, and we stand together as Americans.

By doing so, we pay supreme honor to our fellow citizens who were felled in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities as a free people. We salute the heroes who, without a moment's hesitation, rose to resist and stop this craven and depraved attack, and we assure the world, as Lincoln said, that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas, another colleague from the Armed Services Committee, Mr. REYES.

□ 1620

Mr. REYES. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the people of the 16th Congressional District of Texas to express our community's profound sadness in the wake of Saturday's senseless act of violence that claimed the lives of six Americans and has left our esteemed colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, fighting for her life and has affected 13 others.

Ironically enough, last week on Thursday we had a meeting of the Border Caucus. GABBY came to that meeting, and we discussed the agenda for the 112th Congress. I can tell you that she is a tireless champion on border issues. She is an incredible Member, dedicated to representing the people of her district, and I have had the pleasure of working with her on border issues, on military issues, and on intelligence issues on many occasions.

Over the last few days, my office has received an outpouring of support for GABBY, for her family, and for her staff, as well as everyone else who was affected by this tragedy.

Madam Speaker, when I was in my congressional district this past Sunday, I was approached by a gentleman who I recognized who said something to me that I thought was very touching. He said: Congressman, I often disagree with you on many issues, but I want you to know that I'm praying for your friend from Arizona and for you. I hope she keeps up the fight and pulls through.

I expressed my appreciation on behalf of all of us and shook his hand.

Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of this tragedy, one of the best ways that I know of to honor the victims is to come together as Americans, as so

many Members have said, and to speak with one voice against the violence and the hate that claimed the lives of both Republicans and Democrats, Americans all both young and old.

Our thoughts and our prayers today and since Saturday have been with GABBY, her family, as well as all of the victims and their families affected by this terrible tragedy. It is now up to us to move forward in the same spirit that they have shown as they persevere through this terrible time.

With that, it rests on us to be better. As Mark's brother said from space: It is a peaceful planet. It looks peaceful. Sadly, it is not; but we can do better. We must do better.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers are with all of those who were taken from us last week in this horrific tragedy in Tucson, Arizona. Our Nation stands with Congresswoman GIFFORDS in her recovery, her family, her staff, and all of those who have been impacted by this tragic event, including the family of Gabe Zimmerman, GIFFORDS' director of community outreach, and Federal Judge John Roll, who both died during the shooting.

We also stand with Christina Taylor Green who lost her life that day. Christina had hoped to go to Penn State one day and pursue a career of helping others. Penn State is one of the top public universities in the country, and it is located in my congressional district. I share those same aspirations and have no doubt that Christina would have achieved her dreams and been successful in the career path of her choosing. I offer my deepest condolences to her family.

While this tragedy reminds us of how fragile life is, it also shows us what we can truly be thankful for.

I want to commend and thank all of the Federal, State, and local officials for all of their efforts over the last week. These everyday heroes are often unsung despite the dangerous situations they are placed in. Americans everywhere are also thankful for those who showed courage to stand up in the face of danger:

Daniel Hernandez, Representative GIFFORDS' intern, the hero who assisted Congresswoman GIFFORDS by performing triage immediately after the shooting.

Bill Badger, a retired Army National Guard colonel who tackled the gunman despite being grazed by a bullet in the back of his head.

People like Daniel and Bill serve as real-life examples of what it takes to be a hero. As we mourn our losses, we are grateful for such courageous acts. Our prayers are with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, all those we lost or were injured, and their families. All of us are searching to make sense of this

situation. As we do, we must maintain our support for those seeking recovery and pray for the well-being of all those involved.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

To our friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, to the victims and heroes in Tucson, and to all of their loved ones, our thoughts and prayers are with you. You have won our hearts with your courage and example in these difficult times. GABBY, knowing your ethic of hard work, your tenacity and determination, and knowing you as a fighter for what you believe in, I simply say to you: keep at it, don't stop. Fight, fight, fight. And we look forward to seeing you here and welcoming you here in your House, the people's House.

Times like these make it unmistakably clear how important second chances are. Not everyone in Tucson will have that second chance. How lucky we are that we can pick up the baton for them and finish the job of seeking justice and making our democracy a more perfect Union.

America, this is our second chance. This is our opportunity to shine. Let us make our work, whether here as duly sworn Representatives of the people or as the media or as responsible citizens of America, let us make our work count.

It is our turn to show courage and to be an example as we move forward, doing our part to build a better America. We owe that to GABBY and the good people of Arizona. Let's honor them by hitting that second chance out of the park.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I thank my friend from California for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution today.

I, like all of my colleagues, was shocked and very sobered by these events. I was especially touched as a new Member seeing the location and the situation and the circumstances. This is something we all have done as Members. As a former district director for a former Member of this body, my heart especially goes out to the family of Gabe Zimmerman, of Ron Barber and Pamela Simons, to all the staff who have ever served Members in this House, both here in Washington and out of that district. We want to say thank you for your service. We want to say that our hearts and thoughts and prayers are with those families that have been touched. And rest assured, your safety is on top of our mind for us all.

As a father, I mourn the loss of a 9-year-old daughter. I too have a 9-year-old daughter, and I think all of us as

parents cannot help but look at this and be heartbroken.

As an American, this is an assault on our humanity. This is not the first time this has happened in our Nation's history. It is a sad day nonetheless. We are again asking God to heal our land. We will rise to this challenge as a people. I will continue to do my job as a duly elected Member of this body. I know my staff will do its job. I know all of my colleagues' staff will do their job as well; and we as a body, most importantly, will continue to do the people's work as we move forward through this tragedy.

We again will rise to this challenge, and we pray that healing and grace and peace be brought to all of the victims.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, this weekend we honor a truly historic American who, through unyielding struggle, bent the trajectory of our Nation closer to justice. "Violence . . . solves no social problems," that man, Dr. Martin Luther King—himself a victim of violence—wrote. "It only creates new and more complicated ones." The shootings in Arizona remind us of the truth of these words. They show that the world is still a dangerous place for those who stand up for civic duty.

I do not have to tell this body that GABBY GIFFORDS has been an exemplary Member of this House. As a small businesswoman in her earlier career, she has worked hard to see that the economic concerns of Arizona's families are heard in Washington. As one of the growing number of women Members here, she has been a powerful voice on immigration reform, energy independence, reducing drug trafficking and cartel violence along the border, and the continued importance of exploring the stars.

□ 1630

As a third-generation Tucsonian, she has brought an Arizonan's love of the sun to her advocacy of renewable energy and the benefits of solar power for all Americans.

More importantly, however, GABBY is an exemplary person. She is fun to be with. She is a dear friend of mine, a friend to my family—my stepdaughter, Anna Greenberg, is her pollster—and I know that, wherever you stand in this Chamber, she was a friend to you. She never had anything but a smile for anyone, left or right.

For this, simply for serving her constituents to the best of her ability, she was shot in the line of duty.

At this very moment, she fights for life in Arizona—a life that has already been cruelly denied six others in this tragedy, including a longtime officer of the court, a staffer just like the young men and women we rely on every day, and a little 9-year-old girl.

The troubled individual who perpetrated this evil is now in custody,

and time will tell what moved him to commit this unspeakable act. Yet, for those of us here in this room, we all have to do more to drain our politics of the venom where such hatred breeds.

At this moment, above all, I pray for GABBY's recovery and for the others I do not know, and I mourn those who were lost.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to a member of our committee, the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank my colleague from California for yielding time.

I rise in strong support of this resolution.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my prayers and wishes, as well as those of my constituents in north-west Georgia, to my colleague Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her family and staff, and to all the other victims of the shooting. What took place was an unspeakable tragedy, and it has absolutely no place in our society.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday morning, Ms. GIFFORDS was hosting an event fundamental to our duties as Members of Congress—meeting with and listening to our constituents so that we can best represent them in Washington. It is painfully sad and sobering that, in the process of doing her job, GABBY was brutally attacked.

I had the pleasure of serving with GABRIELLE on both the House Armed Services Committee and the Science and Technology Committee during the 110th Congress. I have always known her to be a thoughtful legislator and a dedicated public servant and have always appreciated her cheerful disposition. Throughout her tenure in Congress, Representative GIFFORDS has distinguished herself as one of the Members of this body who works well with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

My prayers continue to be with her and her family, and I look forward to the day when she walks back onto this House floor.

Madam Speaker, we must also not forget the other individuals who were victims of Saturday's attack. One of the casualties was 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, who was born on September 11, 2001, and was recently elected to serve on her school's student council. Driven by her interest in politics, she had gone to GABBY's event last Saturday to learn more about our Federal Government. The tragedy of her death reminds us all of the fragile nature of life and what it means to be a public servant.

Additionally, we all know the critical role that our staff members play in helping us carry out our duties and better serve our constituents. Like us, members of our staffs are dedicated public servants. That is why it is truly heartbreaking that a member of Ms. GIFFORDS' district staff, Gabe Zimmer-

man, lost his life in this senseless attack while two other members of her Arizona-based staff were injured.

In the midst of one of the darkest hours of our country in recent memory, let us also thank those whose courage and bravery, whether in helping take down the gunman or in assisting in providing care for the injured, deserve recognition. We thank them for their valor.

Madam Speaker, during times of tragedy, we depend on steady leadership to guide us through our grief. I commend the leadership of both parties for remembering that there is much more that unites us than divides us.

Again, I pray for the recovery of our colleague, Ms. GIFFORDS, and for all of the victims of the Tucson shooting.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD).

Mr. MICHAUD. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution.

All of us on Capitol Hill were dealt with the shocking news that Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS and her staff were shot and that her director of outreach, Gabe Zimmerman, was killed. This tragedy makes me think of my own staff and the great work that they do each and every day for me, representing the people I was elected to represent.

I join our entire country in continuing to pray for the recovery of our friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. She is a hardworking and highly respected Member of this Chamber, and she is a true advocate for her home State.

In 2008 I had the privilege of joining her in Tucson for a discussion on the need to improve mental health care for our servicemembers returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know she cares passionately about this issue as she does about so many other issues important to her constituents.

May God bless Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, her family, her friends, and all those in Arizona who have been affected by this tragedy.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL).

Mr. RIGELL. I thank my colleague from California.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution today.

We gather here to remember the innocent people whose lives were cut tragically short by the horror that unfolded in Arizona on Saturday. We also gather to honor and pray for our colleague, Representative GIFFORDS, and the others wounded in that attack.

It was a real privilege for me to participate in the reading of the Constitution with GABBY, and I anxiously look forward to her return to the House floor.

Joined by so many in Virginia's Second District, I offer my heartfelt condolences to all of those affected by this

tragedy. I commend the citizens, the first responders, and the health care professionals who bravely worked to protect and save lives.

We are blessed to live in a country where freedom and the opportunity to peacefully assemble and petition our elected officials, even at a grocery store, is a cherished right. We uphold that right today, and we stand united in condemning this senseless act of violence.

My wife, Teri, joins me and all of this body in praying for those who lost their lives, for those who were wounded and their families.

May God bless America and bring peace to America.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I don't think there are enough words to express my feelings at this time, and I am sure the words that I have will never be adequate to truly share my grief with my colleagues and with our country.

As with all of the Members of Congress, my thoughts and prayers are with those who lost loved ones in the aftermath of this senseless act of violence. My heart is hurting for those who were injured—some catastrophically, some still fighting for their lives.

I love GABBY GIFFORDS. I don't think there is a better example of a true public servant than this remarkable woman the country has gotten to know over the last few days. She is kind and caring and dedicated, and the very fact that she was doing her Congress on Your Corner just 4 days from the time she was sworn in for another term gives you some idea of how dedicated she was to her job.

While I watched in horror, like most of the country, and was riveted to my television set this weekend, I also couldn't help but marvel at those who rose above personal fear, who had the presence of mind and who, in spite of their own personal safety, tackled the perpetrator of this heinous crime; at the young intern who possibly saved GABBY's life by his medical attention to her; and at those who attended the wounded and comforted the bystanders. These are the true heroes in our country—the medical personnel, the hospital administrators and staff.

The entire citizenry of Tucson has given us hope for our Nation as they have risen to this occasion and have demonstrated to the rest of us how good we are in times of trial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. BERKLEY. I've gone through many stages of grief in the last few days. First, I was heartsick at the news. Then I was angry. And now I'm resolved.

□ 1640

I am going to do my own "Congress on the Corner" in honor of GABBY this coming Friday because nobody, no lone gunman, nobody can stop the democratic process and stop us from doing our job of interacting with our constituents.

On behalf of myself and my family and the people that I represent from southern Nevada, I send our collective condolences to those people that have lost loved ones in Tucson. And our thoughts and prayers to the survivors. We wish them all Godspeed. God bless them, and God bless this great Nation.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, before I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM), I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) be allowed to control the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

I rise today to join my colleagues in offering my prayers and condolences to the victims of Saturday's senseless violence in Tucson. To the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives or were injured, know that every Member of Congress and their staff stand with you today.

This legislative body was designed to be a forum for the will of the American people, and Congresswoman GIFFORDS has always met her constituents in accordance with that spirit. She and her staff members who accompanied her on that Saturday possessed a deep understanding that a Representative of the people's House must listen and remain as accessible as possible to the people.

The citizens who lost their lives Saturday morning were exercising their patriotic duty to participate in the democratic process: a widely respected Federal judge; a dedicated church servant; a great grandmother who deeply believed in her country; a former secretary and homemaker; and a 9-year-old girl, herself a leader, getting an early glimpse of how our democracy works. And it is with an especially heavy heart that we mourn the loss of Gabe Zimmerman, a dedicated member of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff and a member of this congressional community who was also a tireless servant to the people of Arizona's Eighth District. That those voices and lives were cut short is a national tragedy of the highest order.

This is a heartbreaking moment in the history of the House of Representatives and our Nation, but we cannot allow this tragedy to put us on the defensive. We cannot retreat from our responsibilities to be accessible and responsive to the will of the American people.

I look forward to the day when Congresswoman GIFFORDS rejoins us in this

Chamber. Until then, we can strive towards the lofty standard she has set. We can find inspiration in her steadfast commitment to those she serves, and we can draw strength from her unwavering belief in democracy.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and in honor of the victims and those left suffering as a result of last weekend's devastating tragedy in Arizona.

In what can only be described as a brutal act of domestic terrorism, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, members of her staff, and other members of the Tucson community are now fighting for their lives. And six innocent others, including a 9-year-old little girl and the Congresswoman's director of community outreach, Gabe Zimmerman, gave the ultimate sacrifice in the exercise of our democracy.

This tragedy gives us great pause as we begin the work of the 112th Congress and serves as a painful reminder that our democracy is built upon the ability of our citizens to participate fully in our democracy, and we must protect that. These have been tragic hours for our country, for those who lost loved ones, and for those who were injured and their families. On behalf of the people of the First District of Rhode Island and my colleague, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN of the Second District, we send our sincerest condolences from our entire State to all those who have lost a loved one as a result of this hideous attack. We also extend our thoughts and prayers to Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff and her constituents, all of whom were victims of this tragedy. And we pray that those injured have a speedy and full recovery.

May God grant our Nation and all the victims peace and comfort. And may we renew our commitment to the ideals that have made America great, including the free exchange of ideas and a democracy that continues to listen carefully to the people we serve.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last Saturday, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and many others were victims of a brutal and brazen attack as they participated in a Congress on Your Corner event. Six people were killed and many more were injured.

Like many of my colleagues, I have had the pleasure to work with Representative GIFFORDS and can attest that she is a thoughtful, kind, and wonderful person. My prayers are with her and her family as she begins the road to recovery.

My thoughts are also with the families of those who were killed. No words can ease the pain of their families, and

our country shares in the grief of six lives cut short. The goodness that Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneek, Dorwan Stoddard, Gabe Zimmerman, and 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green brought to this world will never be forgotten.

It is during moments of tragedy that Americans forget our differences and unite around common goodness. We love our country and our countrymen. We will never let any one act or one individual deter us from living in freedom and without fear. As Members of Congress, we refuse to be cowed by senseless violence. Our duty is to our constituents, and we will fulfill that duty without reservation or hesitation.

The lesson from last Saturday can be found in the courageous acts of strangers and neighbors who banded together amid violence to help others and confront a madman. Let us honor Representative GIFFORDS' intern, David Hernandez, who did not hesitate to come to her aid, and three incredible Arizonans who, without regard for their own lives, tackled and subdued the attacker.

Whatever the deranged purpose of the shooter, it has only served to strengthen our resolve and the greatness of our country and to marvel at the bravery and kindness of our fellow Americans, who without thought of their own safety acted in the face of evil. It is their stories of bravery that will be remembered and held up as an example of an exceptional nature of our great American character.

As we move forward from this horrible event, let us keep the feelings of brotherhood and compassion that should not only exist in the wake of a tragedy, but in our everyday lives.

God bless our dear friend, GABBY GIFFORDS, all those who were injured, the families of the fallen, and God bless America.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN), and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California may resume.

There was no objection.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, we are gathered here this afternoon to show respect and affection for our beloved colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, to mourn the dead, and to provide support for those wounded in body and in spirit.

We also have a special responsibility here this afternoon to tell the truth about the nature of America. Our children and people all over the world saw acts of heinous violence on Saturday, and many think that that represents

the true nature of America. We are here today to say it most emphatically does not.

The true nature of America is not an evil, haunted person killing innocent people. The true nature of this country is the diligence of GABRIELLE GIFFORDS as she stood there listening to her constituents so patiently. The true nature of America is the optimism of a 9-year-old girl eager to become involved in the political process. The true nature of America is the ultimate act of selflessness as a long-term husband interposes his body between that and the bullets and saves the life of his beloved wife whom he met in grammar school.

□ 1650

The true nature of America is the skill and heroism of the young intern, 5 days in the service of Congresswoman GIFFORDS, who rushed to her side and very likely saved her life with his skill.

The true nature of America is the judiciousness and careful reasoning of the Federal judge who gave his life by happenstance on that day at that moment. The true nature of America is the three brave Arizonans who ran toward a man with a loaded gun who was firing away, threw their bodies at him and saved the lives of countless others around them.

Saturday was a horrendous day, but let us be resolved that it will not be marked in history by the manifestation of evil that it represents, but by the manifestation of optimism and diligence and selflessness and goodness that truly reflect the spirit of the American people.

May God bless our colleague and all those who suffered through this long nightmare.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. First of all, I would like to join in with my colleagues in condemning this act of violence and to express my deepest condolences to all of the families who were killed in the attack on January 8, 2011, in Tucson, Arizona.

I join millions of others in praying for the recovery of all of those that were injured. Especially we pray for our colleague, the Honorable Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. It has been my privilege and honor to work with her, especially on the well-being of this Nation's space program, and I pray for her full recovery and God's strength for her husband and her entire family.

In a Nation where there is freedom, some individuals will choose to do evil, and certainly no law can cure the human heart. I do pray for the individuals who are suffering from anger, like those of the accused, that they will find the counseling and healing that they need.

Actions like this, which include the tragic death of a 9-year-old child, are not normal.

But even in tragedy we see the great strength of this Nation. We see the heroic actions of individuals, private and professional, who helped subdue the attacker and who helped the wounded survive. And we see a nationwide outpouring of concern and prayer for GABBY GIFFORDS and all of those that were injured. And of course that rises far above political differences.

May God bless the families and bless us in our work here this year in the 112th Congress.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to another fine gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, earlier this afternoon many of us attended a congressional prayer service for the victims of the shooting in Arizona, and I just wanted to reflect on three things that occurred there that really were meaningful for me.

One was after the prayer service, the staff of GABBY GIFFORDS were gathered, and we had an opportunity to meet them and shake their hands and talk to them a little bit. And I was just taken aback, first of all, by how young they were and how optimistic they were, of course optimistic about her because they really feel and they're praying, and we all do, that she has a full recovery.

But I can't help but reflect on the fact that not only the Congresswoman but her staff were so dedicated. I would often talk to GABBY on the floor oftentimes in the back of this room; and as many have said, she was wonderful. She was so enthusiastic about her job, about her constituents. She is also a beautiful person. And I was just so happy to hear that after the operation that they were optimistic about her recovery, and it seems like every day she gets better. So I'm really looking forward to her coming back here.

And I want to pay tribute to her staff. I mean, obviously three of them were injured. One was killed. That person was killed, and all of them were facing the reality, unfortunately, that we do face now that when we do outreach, that there is a certain amount of danger. But I also think that it's really important for us to say that we are going to fight against that. We are going to continue to be out there meeting with our constituents, and we want people to come and meet with us.

The second thing was the House Chaplain. At the prayer service today he said that the Arizona victims were essentially martyrs to the cause of America because they were out there participating in democracy. And I really think that that's true, that the need to participate and the democratic process is what this is all about. And to the extent that we reinforce that in the aftermath of this tragedy is really important.

And the last thing I would say is some of the Members today, and particularly ED PASTOR when he spoke at the prayer service, he said that we

have to be inspired to better the lives of others.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PALLONE. And I noticed that the little girl, Christina Green, the one who unfortunately passed away, actually told her parents that she wanted to have a career that involved helping those less fortunate than her. And I think if there is anything that we can do in the aftermath of this tragedy, as ED PASTOR said at the prayer service, let us be inspired to better the lives of others. Let's try to make something positive of this tragedy.

That little girl was so much in my heart when I heard about her and her wanting to have a career in public service and her being there at this outreach center because of that desire.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

Mr. STEARNS. I thank my distinguished colleague; and on behalf of myself and my constituents from the Sixth Constitution District in north-central Florida, we offer our thoughts and prayers to our colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and her family.

I also join the American people in extending our condolences to the other victims of this terrible event. This is a heartbreaking loss.

But I'm encouraged by the positive news from her doctors. And I commend those medical professionals in Tucson for their dedication and outstanding work. Obviously, we look forward to GABBY coming back to the House floor. We miss her warm demeanor and her courageous qualities.

In paying our respects to her and the others harmed and killed in this senseless act of violence, we must make it clear that we will not be deterred from meeting with the American people. The act of this deranged individual should not alter the routine duties of our office. I've had 560 town meetings in my district. I understand what it must be to remain accessible to my constituents. An attack on any single Member is an assault on this institution, and we must carry on in our commitment to an open and representative government.

So I extend my best wishes to my colleague for a satisfactory and swift recovery. I also share my deepest sympathies with the families of the victims who were injured and killed in this incomprehensible act.

Let me close with two Bible quotes, from Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"; and 1 Peter 3:14, "But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear. Do not be frightened."

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution that recognizes the tragedy in Tucson on Saturday. I'm deeply shocked and saddened, and I'm praying for GABBY, her family, staff, and the other victims of this senseless act of violence.

In times like these, words often fail to describe our anguish and pain. As a fellow Member of the class of 2006, I've gotten to know Congresswoman GIFFORDS well and have developed enormous respect for her intellect and her love for this country.

□ 1700

She and I have served together on the House Armed Services Committee. And she was very gracious on the morning of President Obama's swearing in. She offered to share her blanket with me as we both braved the cold during the inauguration. We kept each other warm, and we had warm dialogue and happy moments.

GABBY and her staff were performing a fundamental duty of a Member of Congress: That is listening to the concerns of her constituents. Our democracy depends on this type of open and informal meeting of elected officials and the people that they serve. We cannot let this cowardly act of violence prevent us from engaging with our constituents. I encourage my colleagues to take appropriate caution but to continue holding constituent meetings and do the job we were elected to do without fear. To do otherwise would allow the gunman a small taste of victory and would diminish our democracy and dishonor the victims of this senseless act.

I look forward to GABBY's speedy recovery and to working with her on the Armed Services Committee again soon.

And I would like to say a few words about Federal Judge John Roll, who lost his life on Saturday. Judge Roll was with Congresswoman GIFFORDS the day of the shootings to press for funding to relieve overcrowding in his district.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Judge Roll had been a lifetime servant of his community and his State, 63 years old. And as Justice John Roberts said, Judge Roll's death is a somber reminder of the importance of the rule of law and the sacrifices of those who work to secure it.

Finally, I would like to recognize the other victims. I won't name them, and I do not know them personally, but I want to express my sympathy and condolences to their families.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND).

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution. The thoughts

and prayers of Florida's Second Congressional District I deliver. Our hearts are broken over the events of Saturday. We want to deliver today our thoughts especially to those families who lost their loved ones, the six families who are today memorializing them and planning those details.

I also want to make sure that I express my appreciation for the short time that I had a privilege of speaking with Representative GIFFORDS. Last Thursday, shortly after we were sworn in, I walked just outside the floor. She met me outside, and she extended her hand to me. And she said, "Hello, I am Gabby Giffords. You must be new." And I said, "Well, I am new. I am Steve Southerland." She goes, "Where are you from, Steve?" And I said, "Florida." She said, "Let me introduce you to some people that will help you." And she walked down the hall and out to the steps, and she introduced me to numerous, numerous floor staff. I did not have any other encounter with her except for that 5-minute brief time.

And on Saturday, when I learned of the events that had occurred in Tucson, it was with horror that I got home, and I turned on the television, and I realized that it was that wonderful, sweet person who with kindness and gentleness introduced me to the staff. And so it is with a burdened heart today that I want those in this Chamber and the people of America to know that the citizens of Florida's District Two are heartbroken as well. We are praying for each and every one affected.

And I want to make sure that we go from here to continue, in honor of those who have given their lives and those who have been affected, to create a more perfect Union, that we work hard to secure the blessings of liberty. For that is how we will be known by the world. Not by our security, not by our policy, but by the civility, by the love we show and care for one another. That will make us a shining city on a hill. And that's what I am committed to doing.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today. As has been said over and over, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS is a smart, gifted, and compassionate Member of Congress. It is a privilege to be her colleague and friend. Arizona is privileged to be represented by a person of her caliber.

My wife, Lisa, and I pray for her recovery. And our thoughts are with her, her family, her friends, and her community as they come together in the aftermath of this terrible act of violence. I look forward to seeing GABBY back here where she belongs, on this floor, advocating on behalf of her constituents.

I served in this House for many years as a congressional aide. And since I've

been elected to Congress, I've come to appreciate even more the generous and selfless service of our staffs. So I am especially touched and grieved by the murder of Gabe Zimmerman, who served as GABBY's director of community outreach.

For those whose lives were lost—Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard, who was related to one of my own staff, my sympathy, condolences, and prayers are with their families and loved ones.

I believe so very strongly that we here in this House, and all of us as Americans, must come together and transform this tragedy into something positive and hopeful. We live in a country that is too polarized. And we live in a country where a culture of violence is all too common. If this horrible act of violence results in all of us becoming more civil to one another, in taking a more careful look at the words and imagery we use when talking to and about one another as we deal with difficult and controversial policy debates, if it results in concrete ways to begin to reverse this culture of violence, then our Nation will triumph over this pain and loss.

Today is a time to grieve, to mourn, to express sympathy. But unfortunately, in the aftermath of this tragedy, too many of the old fights resurfaced. The left blamed the right, the right blamed the left, everybody blamed the media, op-eds were written, and bills were introduced. But Madam Speaker, none of that will bring back those who were lost. None of that will put a 9-year-old girl back at the breakfast table where she belongs.

Like many of my colleagues, on Monday I participated in a national moment of silence. The best thing about that moment was that for just a minute or two the noise stopped. We paused and we reflected. And I hope that we can do more of that in the months and years ahead.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure now to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman who has returned from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, it's my distinct honor to rise today and call Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS not only a colleague, but a friend. I had the pleasure of working with this fine lady from Arizona on several initiatives, beginning very early in her first term. The districts that we serve are very similar, southern New Mexico, southern Arizona. We share the southern border. We have issues of public land, public access, resources. So many of our perspectives originate from the same sort of district.

I got to know GABBY just in her first month here. In February, we went together to Iraq to visit soldiers. Together we would sit down and visit with young men and young women who were defending our country, who were

fighting for the freedom of the Iraqis there. And we just grew a common bond in the service and the recognition of those who were serving in an even more difficult circumstance.

We found the opportunities to work across the aisle on several issues just after we returned. And those are the strong memories that compel me today to stand up and say that I have grown to respect and admire the efforts of this courageous young woman as she served here in Congress.

As we saw the unforeseeable and tragic circumstances of this past weekend, we realized that there are circumstances that face us all. And I would recognize right now that GABRIELLE GIFFORDS decided to do her job no matter the risk. She served with courage, determination, with openness and a forthrightness to her constituents that should be a model to all of us.

I know that she is an inspiration for me today as she struggles to regain her health and to regain her position here serving the American people.

I have been able to support many of GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' initiatives in the past. It's my privilege today to lend my support to this resolution. I pray for her speedy recovery and for the recovery of those injured on that fateful day. I pray for the comfort of those who lost loved ones. May God bless GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

□ 1710

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I knew GABBY GIFFORDS to be a warm and caring friend, a rising star in the House with a moral compass as sure as it is true. That is why she recently spoke out against the rising tide of hate speech in our country and the lack of civility in our political process.

While it may be too early to come to any conclusions about the consequences of the recent and tragic events, it is never too late to reflect on lessons we have learned from earlier such tragedies and take them to heart.

Guns kill. And those who glamorize gunplay do no service to humanity.

Words matter. And those who use inflammatory rhetoric to achieve cheap political gain wound our country and weaken the ties that bind us.

Democracy triumphs. The fundamental wisdom that has distinguished our Nation and led her to greatness resides in our unwavering commitment to settle our disputes with ballots, not bullets.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Congresswoman GIFFORDS—I hope for her swift and complete recovery—and to her family and to all the friends and family members of the victims of that tragic event.

As we approach the observance of Martin Luther King Day, let us recall

the words of Robert Kennedy that were said on that tragic day so many years ago, and I quote: "Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: 'to tame the savagery of man and make gentle the life of this world.'"

Get well soon, GABBY. We need your leadership, your strength, your courage. You are in our thoughts; you are in our prayers.

Mr. DANIEL L. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

Mr. PLATTS. I thank the distinguished gentleman from California for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise in humble and solemn support for House Resolution 32.

I also rise to express my heartfelt gratitude to our distinguished Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), and all Members of the House leadership, Republican and Democratic alike. The thoughtful and compassionate manner in which they have united the Members of this great institution in prayerful support for our beloved colleague and friend, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and all of the victims of the January 8 attack in Tucson, Arizona, is sincerely appreciated.

Madam Speaker, as with all Americans, I was deeply saddened and horrified upon learning of the senseless and violent attack on Congresswoman GIFFORDS, members of GABBY's staff, and citizens of Arizona's Eighth District. This act of violence was an unthinkable attack on a dedicated public servant and her constituents.

It was also an attack on one of the most important cornerstones of our form of representational democracy—the duty of elected officials to reach out to the citizens they serve. It is imperative that we not allow the tragic events of January 8 to prevent elected officials from fulfilling this duty to remain in close contact with their constituents and well grounded in their concerns.

On behalf of my wife, Leslie, and our family and all residents of Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District, I offer our deepest sympathies to the families, the friends, and the coworkers of those who were taken from us in this attack. Please know that you and all the victims of this terrible tragedy are and will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. May God watch over you as he continues to watch over our grieving Nation.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN).

Ms. BALDWIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my thoughts and offer my prayers and those of my constituents for my friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, who lies critically wounded; and for her staffer, Gabe Zimmerman; for the precious patriot, Christina Taylor Green;

for Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwan Stoddard, who lost their lives in this senseless tragedy; and to their families.

Our thoughts and prayers, too, go out to the other innocent victims of this tragedy, including congressional staffers Ron Barber and Pamela Simon and their families, and our heartfelt gratitude to all those brave souls who responded valiantly and quickly, preventing even more death and injury. And to the people of Arizona, who love their State and our democracy, to you we express our solidarity.

GABBY, as we all know, is one of the nicest, most decent, dedicated, concerned, and compassionate Representatives in this body. The fact that she and her staff were gunned down while doing their jobs, doing exactly what is required in a democracy, makes this tragedy even more unfathomable.

And so I am concerned about the impact of this tragedy on our democracy. We cannot have a well-functioning democracy without ample interaction and discourse between members of the public and their elected officials.

Directly or indirectly, this tragedy invites us to examine the way we conduct business on all levels. There is no question that political discourse has become toxic at times, and I hope that out of this tragedy comes a renewed commitment to civility.

I applaud Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI for setting the right tone. We have a moment now to look prospectively at how we debate issues of great import.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. BALDWIN. I hope we seize this moment to come together as a Congress and ask, How can we bring renewed civility to consequential debate and create a new environment in which people can differ without demonizing others?

People reach different conclusions about the important topics of our time, but each of us, like GABBY, seeks office because we want to make life better for the people we represent. We want a better America.

GABBY, keep fighting the good fight. We need you and America needs you.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I, like our colleagues, am rising in sorrow today to address the events that occurred in Arizona this past weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those victims, with their families, and with our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS. She was doing what we all do—hearing the concerns of her constituents. And I think we all know and recognize that we in this Chamber are more visible and more accountable than ever before.

On Saturday, a madman, a monster, attempted to assassinate our beloved

colleague. She was shot in the line of duty, the duty of listening to, so that she could more effectively represent those constituents. It was a duty that she and many of us do love and do treasure that interaction with our constituents.

Today, more so than ever, as Members of Congress are called to that duty, we realize that it goes with us wherever we go. Every trip to the grocery store, to church, to a soccer game, can turn into a town hall meeting. That accessibility to those who count on us to make the right decision is something that we cannot give up. Even though this past weekend's events have devastated us, we must not compound the tragedy by being deterred from those duties.

The shooting occurred on Saturday, and on Sunday I kept a previously scheduled district appointment at Fort Campbell. That Army post is home to the 101st Airborne when they are not deployed, as they currently are in Afghanistan. These public servants know what the senseless loss of an honored friend, colleague, even a hero feels like. They also know better than anyone else that service is often most valuable when it is performed in the face of fear, uncertainty, or hostility.

So many of my constituents have asked what will this mean for how we, as Members, carry out our jobs. I think we will all be more careful when we undertake our duties. We know we are responsible not only for our own safety; we are responsible for the safety of our staff, our constituents who bring issues to us. And in this, I hope our service does credit to the men and women in uniform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

□ 1720

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I hope our service does credit to the men and women in uniform who have served us so very well. God bless GABBY GIFFORDS, bless her staff, her constituents, the other innocent victims, bless this House and our great Nation.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Our energetic and talented colleague GABBY GIFFORDS was doing what she does so well, the core responsibility of every Member: listening to her constituents in an open public forum. Young and old, Americans of all political philosophies gathered to meet with her.

This is the very type of neighborhood office hours that so many of us hold. I have held many of them throughout central Texas. And this is the very type of accessibility and openness that is fundamental to our democracy and critical to a society that recognizes that change is achieved through ballots, not bullets.

Less than a year ago, another disturbed individual expressed his anger by crashing his airplane into a building in Austin, Texas, that housed IRS employees, causing great death and destruction. Incredibly, a Facebook page was erected quickly in his honor. What I said then I would reemphasize today: We must turn down the volume on hate to discourage more such horrors.

Debate, vigorous debate, is at the very heart of our democracy. Sometimes it is heated and strongly worded. Such strong discourse helps us to set America's course. But violence is not discourse. It debases our democracy. Violence can kill a human being, but it cannot kill the truth. In a free and open market of ideas, truth will ultimately prevail.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life and work we celebrate this very month, "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant." We pray for those lost and the many who still suffer from this great tragedy.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to humbly add my voice to the remarks made so eloquently by my colleagues.

I had the honor of personally meeting Representative GIFFORDS for the first time just last week, here in the Chamber; and although my service in the House has thus far only overlapped ever so briefly with hers, GABBY's attitude of service and spirit of commitment to those that she represents was immediately apparent.

Representative GIFFORDS was practicing one of the most basic and important duties that a Member of Congress will have, making herself available to constituents, when a gunman viciously and inexplicably attacked her and 19 others.

It is difficult to find explanation for such a tragic event. And while an explanation will always elude us, we can find comfort in the prayer of a friend and constituent from my home district in Pennsylvania, Rabbi Ira Budow.

Just this past Monday evening before a town hall meeting in Bucks County, Rabbi Budow prayed. He said, "I pray that the disaster in Arizona serves as a wake-up call for our country and results in a more caring and loving atmosphere for us all. At the end of the day, we are all Americans and rise and fall together."

I'm proud to support the resolution.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO).

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues today in support of this resolution and associate myself with the eloquent and heartfelt expressions of condolences and comfort from

my colleagues from both sides of the aisle. And hearing the wonderful stories about GABBY told on this floor help capture the warmth and humanity that is GABBY GIFFORDS.

The shock, horror, and tears that followed the unfolding of the terrible news from Arizona, it's like just yesterday. Here was GABBY, out on the first day after we finished votes to meet with her constituents at a Congress on your Corner, an event that many of us do in our own districts. She was joined by her dedicated staff and a large number of constituents who wanted to talk with her, including a third grader so excited to meet with her Congressperson, who had just been elected to an office in her elementary school.

I send my condolences on behalf of all of the people of Hawaii to the families of those who lost loved ones in this senseless act of violence. And I'm going to say their names again because they must not be forgotten: John Roll, 63, chief judge for the U.S. District of Arizona; Gabriel Matthew Zimmerman, 30, Representative GIFFORDS' director of community outreach; Christina Taylor Green, 9 years old, a beautiful and bright girl who should have had a chance for a full life; Dorothy Morris, 76, whose husband was critically injured trying to protect her during the shootings; Phyllis Schneck, 79, mother of three, grandmother of seven; Dorwan Stoddard, 76, who shielded his wife, Mavy, who was also wounded.

Our prayers are with those who are struggling to recover from their injuries, including our dear friend and my classmate, GABBY, GABBY's husband, Mark Kelly, and all of the family members of the victims. We are all one family. As we say in Hawaii, *ohana*, united in our collective grief and prayers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman 30 additional seconds.

Ms. HIRONO. I thank the gentleman.

The day before this terrible tragedy, GABBY had reached out to a friend of hers, Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson, a Republican, to talk to him about ways that we all could tone down the political rhetoric and partisanship.

At this point we don't know what drove the gunman to commit this horrible act of violence. Regardless of whether his actions have a causal connection with an increasingly negative tone of our political discourse, I think this tragedy should give us all pause to reflect. Just as we have all come together today to honor the victims of this tragedy, I believe we can honor GABBY by going forward with a heightened commitment to respect each other, listen to each other's points of view and come up with policies that will strengthen our Nation. We must go forward together. *Mahalo nui loa*.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York, Dr. HAYWORTH.

Ms. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the victims of Saturday's senseless and atrocious attack. Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff are constantly in the thoughts and prayers of her colleagues in the House. And as a mother, I am most profoundly saddened by the loss of the youngest victim, Christina Taylor Green. Christina was only 9 years old.

She belonged to history at the beginning of her life, and she belongs to history at the end of her life. She was born on September 11, 2001; and Christina was acutely aware of the impact that day had on our Nation. But she always found the positive and hopeful in that dreadful event. She would often tell people she was born on a holiday, and she said it was a holiday because it gave hope to say that and people came together on that day. She wore red, white, and blue; and she was vocal about her patriotism and her pride to be an American.

And in addition to being extremely patriotic, Christina was an inquisitive and mature young lady who had recently taken an interest in the most fundamental of American rights, civic engagement. She had just been elected to her own student government, and she was attending Saturday's event to meet her Congresswoman and learn more about government.

As we grieve for her loss, it is important to pay tribute to the model young citizen Christina was and for us to honor her memory. As adults, we can all learn from Christina's positive outlook on life, love of country, and participation in government.

Even during these very dark and painful times, we should take solace in knowing that with children like Christina growing up in our society, our Nation has a bright future.

□ 1730

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPES).

Mrs. CAPPES. I thank my colleague from Iowa.

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H. Res. 32, a resolution to honor GABBY GIFFORDS as she recovers from her injuries, to pay tribute to those who lost their lives, and to thank those who helped the injured and prevented further loss of life.

This is a devastating and emotional week for all of us here in Congress, for our staff, and for America as a whole. The senseless and atrocious loss of life in Tucson has infringed upon our sense of safety and decency. It has also left us grieving for a colleague, for her staff, and for the six Americans who lost their lives last Saturday, as recited by my colleague from Hawaii just now.

Representative GIFFORDS—GABBY to so many of us—is truly a treasured Member of this body. She is a gifted legislator, frequently leading her colleagues on issues like solar energy,

space endeavors, veterans health care, and comprehensive immigration reform. But GABBY is also known around Capitol Hill as a smart, generous, and unfailing dedicated public servant and friend. She is the one who would be helping to plan a baby shower for one of her colleagues, to reach across the aisle to lend a supportive hand to a colleague in need of advice or a laugh, to take time to offer a hand to a staffer after a long day at work.

I also think of GABBY as a unique and all-too-rare representative in this Congress. She prefers considerate and detailed debate over harsh and angry rhetoric. She chooses her words thoughtfully, and has spoken out against violent language and the consequences such careless acts create.

So I would argue if we really want to pay tribute to GABBY here today, may her service not be an exception to the rule. We in this Chamber have the opportunity to live every day by the words we are speaking today.

Madam Speaker, the sorrow and grief of Saturday's tragedy will echo for many years to come. As we pray and take stock of this tragedy, I am also concerned by the ease with which a clearly troubled young man could obtain a firearm. And I believe that this incident also illuminates a serious gap in our mental health system, one where far too many ill people slip through the cracks. The price for these failings is all too often paid, as in this case, by friends and neighbors. We owe it to the victims of this horrific tragedy to improve our mental health system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. CAPPES. We owe it to the victims of this horrific tragedy to improve our mental health system; and, in addition, to address gun violence. We can do better. Let us resolve to do so. Like everyone here and countless at home, I am praying for GABBY's swift recovery, for her constituents who lost their lives, and for our country.

Let us adopt this resolution today in honor of our beloved friend GABBY and the victims of this senseless tragedy.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, at this time I do not believe I have any other speakers. I reserve my time to close.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. We come together today as a Nation to mourn those who died in Arizona and to pray for the full recovery of those still lying in hospital beds in Tucson.

GABBY GIFFORDS has captured the love and admiration of this entire country as America has come to know her through news reports, just as we have come to know her over the last 4 years as the most delightful and engaging Member of this House, and as a woman who brought intelligence and

determination to the service of this country.

The last time I had a chance to spend time with GABBY was just 6 days ago. We were here on the House floor. As it happens, we sat next to each other as we waited our turn to be assigned a portion of the Constitution to be read. We had a chance to listen to each passage, to speak briefly about some of the salient provisions. And as they got down the line to where we were sitting, it became apparent that GABBY would be called upon to read the First Amendment to the Constitution, and that I would be called upon to read the considerably less august Third Amendment.

For just a selfish instant, I wondered why luck couldn't have been just a little different. If we had been sitting just one seat over, then I could have stood here and talked about freedom of religion and freedom of speech. But providence had determined otherwise, had determined that GABBY GIFFORDS should stand on this floor and have the honor of reading the First Amendment, an amendment that is best known for its earlier clauses but which ends with the words that enshrine the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The day after she read those words at this podium, she flew home to Arizona so she could stand in front of a Safeway, intending to meet people peaceably assembled, and listen to people petition for a redress of their grievances.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SHERMAN. I was relieved yesterday when doctors said that they were confident that the assassin had not taken GABBY's life. And I am confident that that assassin did not take from our people the right to peaceably assemble and to tell their elected representatives their ideas and, yes, their grievances.

I look forward to 2 years from now and 2 years after that and 2 years after that, to sitting here on this floor with GABBY and waiting until she is called upon to read the First Amendment.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, contrary to my previous statement, I do have another speaker. At this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and I join my colleagues in denouncing the horrific attack that occurred against one of our own this past weekend, and took the lives of six innocent people, including a staff member, Gabe Zimmerman, and a beautiful 9-year-old child. We continue to pray for Congresswoman GIFFORDS and all those injured, and the families of the deceased.

As Members of Congress we have two responsibilities after such an attack.

First, we must vow that we will never let the work of a madman stop us from doing our work on behalf of the American people. Secondly, we will make it clear to all that while we have disagreements, we are all still Americans, and we respect each other. Words matter. When we show Americans that we can disagree substantively and respectfully, we bring our entire country closer together and show the world why America is the greatest force for good.

There is a song Sarah McLachlan sings, "Angel"—we place them in the arms of angels. And may God bless this family and these people who endured this horrific event.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, GABBY GIFFORDS is a wonderful human being and a treasured colleague and friend. But this resolution, as important and appropriate as it is, stops short of any collective commitment to prevent this type of tragedy from happening again. It happened because of a combustible mix of: one, a highly charged, antigovernment political environment; two, easy access to weapons whose only purpose is to kill large numbers of human beings; and, three, mental illness.

Not too long ago, another mentally ill person used the same kind of weapon to kill 32 innocent people on the Virginia Tech campus. In response we passed legislation eventually that enabled States to provide the names of people that they judged were too mentally imbalanced to be buying guns and provide those names to the National Instant Criminal Background Check system. We authorized \$250 million to enable them to do that. But since then, we have appropriated each year less than 10 percent of that amount. As a result, of the 2.6 million people that the States know should be disqualified from buying firearms, less than 20 percent are actually on that list and so disqualified. In fact, less than 4 percent of Arizonans who the State knows should be disqualified from purchasing firearms are actually on that list and unable to purchase those firearms.

□ 1740

So perhaps we could consider following up on this resolution with some concrete steps to prevent this from happening again. I know it is important to protect one's individual freedoms, but a little 9-year-old girl should also have the freedom to visit with her Congresswoman, secure in the knowledge that her Congress has the courage to take reasonable steps to protect her and our country from such senseless violence.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, the horror of Saturday's bloodshed in

Arizona, the senseless loss of life, and the cowardly attack on GABBY GIFFORDS has for many Americans raised the question of whether we as a Nation have lost our way. Many wonder, if an act so benign as GABBY's effort to listen to her neighbors in the Eighth Congressional District of Arizona can be the target of such violence, whether there is hope and a future for our democracy.

One voice from our recent past suggests there is still hope for that fragile ideal. On April 4, 1968, Senator Robert Kennedy spoke in Indianapolis, Indiana, shortly after the slaying of Martin Luther King at a time when political violence wracked our Nation. This is what he said:

"We have to make an effort in the United States. We have to make an effort to understand, to get beyond these difficult times."

He then said, "My favorite poem was Aeschylus, and he once wrote, 'Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.'"

He concluded that what we need in the United States is not division. What we need is not hatred. What we need is not violence and lawlessness. It is love and wisdom and compassion toward one another.

GABBY GIFFORDS' work at that Tucson shopping mall on January 8 and all those present and all those victimized by a coward's bullets were affirming Senator Kennedy's vision that peaceful dialogue and understanding is the true calling of the American people, not division and violence.

As one who entered Congress with GABBY in the class of 2006—a tight-knit group that has met every Wednesday over the last 4 years—it has been an honor to watch her on the Armed Services Committee, advocating for the Air Force and for military families. Even during the lame duck session, she was a leader in enacting the GI Bill Patch, which will make sure that the Guard and reservists will not be left out from the GI Bill's educational benefits. She is an extraordinary person this country needs if we are going to overcome the many challenges that we face today.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support passage of this resolution, which is an affirmation that we will not surrender our way of life to the forces of lawlessness and hate.

On behalf of the people of eastern Connecticut, I want to express our awe and reverence to the examples of human courage and excellence which GABBY GIFFORDS and the other victims in Tucson displayed to the world last Saturday.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, a gunman has underestimated the will and undaunted bravery of GABBY GIFFORDS.

Tragically, we have lost Gabe Zimmerman, her director of community outreach; her constituents; Judge John Roll; Christina Taylor Green; Phyllis Schneck; Dorwan Stoddard; and Dorothy Morris, all of whom were engaged in the very civic activities we most encourage, along with 13 others who were injured along with Congresswoman GIFFORDS.

Together, these Americans have brought this House together as never before for a much needed time of reflection. I am heartbroken for all who were in the line of fire and for their families.

I focus now on GABBY because I cannot get her out of my consciousness. I am trying to understand her prescient fearlessness of her own safety in the days before the attempt on her life given what has happened to civil discourse in our country.

Can GABBY's selflessness and her concerns for our country give us the fortitude to follow her example in assuming that it is not the safety of Members that is at risk? Do we dare follow GABBY in her search for ways to be at once resolute and respectful?

Remarkable courage and determination have made GABRIELLE GIFFORDS the living manifestation of what Members of this institution and the citizens of our great country want to be. May GABBY GIFFORDS' words prove as contagious as her courage.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, like every speaker today, I rise with a very heavy heart. Our friend GABRIELLE GIFFORDS lies in a hospital bed, fighting desperately for her life.

At the same time, dozens are in mourning for those killed in the senseless slaughter, including Judge John Roll and our own Gabe Zimmerman—Congresswoman GIFFORDS' director of public outreach.

We join them in a grieving process that is painful beyond words.

To those families, particularly that of Gabe's, who reached out in GABBY's voice each and every day, we weep for your loss and know of the constant ache left in your hearts by the sudden loss of those you loved, and we are blessed to join you in the celebration of their lives.

As we mourn those who were lost, we triumph, with equal emotion, in miracles. By the mercy of God and the swift hands of our medical heroes, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and many of those wounded by this madman have been saved.

When I heard of this tragedy, I immediately asked the question that each of us here must have wondered dozens of times: How could anyone hate or seek to harm this wonderful public servant, this beautiful person, who has never spoken a cross word or shown a downcast expression throughout her time in this great House?

Though these answers are painfully slow in coming, I pray her return to the warm embrace of her family will be swift.

More selfishly, because she is my friend and because I see in her the pure heart of a servant, I pray she will return to this Chamber as soon as possible to continue her work for the people of Arizona, whom she so treasures. GABBY knows at her core that she is an ordinary lady called to an extraordinary mission.

GABBY, you are a champion among champions, a friend among friends, and a fighter among fighters for the common good. We are all pulling for you. Get well soon. We can't wait to have you back.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this body is numb.

We forget that we are a family, a dysfunctional family at times, but that we are a family. We all get to know each other, and we all have a common passion for the values of this country, values that brought us here in the first place. That is a remarkable story that we have heard unfolding about our good friend GABBY GIFFORDS since this horrible tragedy first took place.

All of us in this body share a unique sense of responsibility for what happened to our dear friend, to her courageous staff and to the incredible people who showed up to participate in democracy at that Safeway in Tucson on Saturday. I know that a lot of us had this shared experience of horror on Saturday as we watched these horrible images appear in front of our eyes.

I want to briefly talk about my good friend GABBY.

It is ironic that on this day when our President is in Tucson, honoring the memory of those who lost their lives and those struggling to put their lives back together, that my connection with GABBY and President Obama go back to the exact same day. It was September 29 of 2006. GABBY and I were both candidates for Congress. We met at an event, and there were things about her that leaped off the page immediately.

□ 1750

It was her passion for why she was running, it was her fearlessness, and it was that smile that you've heard people talking about that could light up a room.

We got to talking about each other and what we had in common; and I learned that her brother, Alex Giffords,

had been a place kicker at Iowa State University, where I graduated from college and where I was an unknown walk-on under Earl Bruce. And we talked about that. And I have in my office this little print of Beardshear Hall at Iowa State University that my friend GABBY gave to me that she got from her brother Alex because she knew this was important to me. This little picture is an emblem of what an amazing human being GABBY GIFFORDS is because she was always thinking more of her friends than she was of herself.

I got on a red eye after first meeting GABBY GIFFORDS and flew back to my district and met an unknown Senator from Illinois who had just gotten elected named Barack Obama for the very first time. That's what is great about this country is these random meetings that we have with amazing people from all over the country who we meet on the House floor, many of whom came in in one of the largest classes in recent memory. You heard them come to the floor today and talk about someone they barely knew or may have met briefly or didn't know at all, because that is what binds us together is the spirit, the history of this Chamber and what it has meant as the people's House.

That is why it is incumbent on all of us to take away as a lesson from this tragedy a renewed sense of respect for each other and for the common purpose that brought us all here together in the first place.

I talked about how we are a family. Every Thanksgiving our family has a tradition of watching a movie called "Home for the Holidays" about a very dysfunctional family. The star of that movie is Holly Hunter. In one of the closing moments of this movie—which like all good movies makes you laugh, makes you cry and makes you think—Holly Hunter's father is down in the basement watching old home movies and he's talking to her about one moment in his life that took 5 seconds and made all the difference in the world in his relationship with his daughter. And he said, You were fearless, huh? Fearless.

That is my friend, GABBY GIFFORDS. She is fearless in what makes this job worth having. That is why we have a responsibility—to her and all the people who lost their lives and who showed up at that town hall meeting because they care about this country—to make a difference going forward in how we talk to each other and how we care about each other.

As we look forward to next Monday, we should remember what Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us, that "the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice." We have a collective duty, all of us, to make sure that we bend that arc sooner and quicker so that the American people realize that we are all in this together and that this is the people's House for a reason.

I want to thank my Republican colleagues for their extreme sensitivity

and their devotion to this important resolution, and I thank my colleague from California for helping us put this resolution together today.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in enthusiastic support of H. Res. 32.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged and humbled to be able to close out this debate. I am not, as some who have come to the floor, a close personal friend of GABBY GIFFORDS; but I have, as have others, been under her spell here. I have had the chance to talk with her on several occasions in an informal setting, and I might mention that on each of those occasions she reminded me that she used to be Republican. I don't know if that was her way of thinking that maybe we could have a rapport—you didn't really need that with her because of her openness and her smile, but it was interesting. She always did it with a smile, and she always did it with an invitation to engage with her that is the mark of her.

We pray, all of us together, that she and those others grievously wounded will have a speedy and full recovery. We pray for those who have lost their lives. We pray for this institution, that we will take the correct lessons out of this tragedy. And when I use the word "tragedy," it is a tragedy on the side of those who were attacked and the institution that was attacked. It is, however, the product of a criminal act, and we should understand that.

Madam Speaker, it is always within our power to either take the proper lessons from a particular incident or to discard them, to think deeply about them or think of them superficially. I believe that the fact that we have dedicated this entire day to trying to find the right lessons out of that and to give proper respect to those who suffered in this tragedy is evidence of the fact that we will attempt to take the proper lessons out of this.

One is, of course, that this is the people's House. If you read the Constitution, article I, it is clear that the House of Representatives is meant to be the closest to the people of any of the Federal institutions. We all, in a real sense, no matter where we come from, are institutionalists in that we love this institution—we fought in many ways to get here—but we honor one another by showing respect to one another and we honor our constituents as well.

Speaker BOEHNER has said, "An attack on one is an attack on all." That is true. Perhaps several hundred years ago the writer and the poet, John Donne, said it best. He said, "No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, be-

cause I am involved in mankind. And, therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise this morning to pay tribute to my esteemed colleague from the great state of Arizona, U.S. Rep. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who with God's grace is still alive and appears to be heading toward a promising recovery. I am grateful to God for His divine intervention in the lives of those 13 other victims who, along with Rep. GIFFORDS, were shot last Saturday at a shopping mall in Rep. GIFFORDS' Tucson, Arizona district. Right now, news accounts indicate that those 13 people will survive their injuries.

But, Madam Speaker, six people, including a nine-year-old girl, did not survive last Saturday's gunfire by a young man who, by every account, is clearly mentally unbalanced. It is my opinion that under no set of circumstances should the gunman have been able to purchase a handgun with a 30-round magazine. That young man was able to wreak all this havoc in a matter of a few minutes before several courageous Americans rose to the occasion as they quickly wrestled the assailant to the ground.

Today, however, is a day to honor the tragic loss of life that took place last Saturday and to also pray for the continued strength and full recovery of Rep. GIFFORDS and the others who survived.

Rep. GIFFORDS is a brilliant woman who represents the best of what a Member of this body should be. She keeps an abiding focus on serving her constituents and, last Saturday, she was in the midst of an open air forum, "Congress on Your Corner," where she and her staff had assembled a portable congressional office to, literally, take the best of their legislative and constituent service ability directly to the people who elected her to serve. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, Rep. GIFFORDS and her staff were operating in the best traditions of this Congress and in the best traditions of our democracy. That is why it still seems incredible to me that Americans as diverse as nine-year-old Christina Taylor Green to 79-year-old Phyllis Schneek, a mother of three and grandmother of seven, should come to this public forum only to lose their lives to a deranged assailant with a gun.

This simply should not happen in our country but, sadly, far too often it does.

Madam Speaker my prayers and support remain with Rep. GIFFORDS and her husband, Captain Mark Kelly, a NASA astronaut, their family and the team of medical professionals and first responders who have done an amazing job in helping Rep. GIFFORDS and the other survivors to continue to improve. I also extend my condolences to the six Americans who lost their lives that day including Gabriel Zimmerman, Rep. GIFFORDS' community outreach director, who lost his life in the midst of serving his community.

At another day and at another time I will amplify my voice and advocacy in a manner that I hope will make a dent in the wanton proliferation and availability of guns in our society to those who clearly should not have them. But, for now, I wish God's peace and healing power upon GABBY GIFFORDS and the other survivors of this tragic event.

I also pray for our President and for our Nation as we assemble in a spirit of community tonight, in Tucson, in a national service of

prayer and reflection for the victims of this tragedy and for our Nation.

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing my friend, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, members of her staff, and other victims of the senseless attack which took place on January 8, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona.

GABBY is kind, brilliant, beautiful, charming, intellectually curious, honest, and a powerful presence. She is truly one of the most amazing people I've met in my life. She is devoted to public service for all the right reasons—to make America stronger, safer, better-educated and to protect America from its enemies. She is thoroughly dedicated to her district and selflessly serves her constituents. Her constituents, even those who do not always share her political views, respect her for being ready to help them and fight for what is right. I know my colleagues on both sides of the aisle recognize her as a person of great integrity who fights tirelessly for her principles.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts at this time are with my friend GABBY. We are all hoping and praying for her complete recovery, as well as for the families of those who were killed and those who were wounded and are struggling to recover. Violence and threats have no place in our democracy.

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I stand united today with my colleagues and our nation as we remember those killed and wounded during the shootings on Saturday in Tucson, Arizona.

To the families, loved ones and friends of those who suddenly and senselessly lost their lives, I join my colleagues in extending our most sincere condolences and hope that they find comfort during these extremely difficult days.

To those still recovering in the hospital, including our respected colleague and dedicated public servant GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, we offer our prayers for healing of the physical and emotional wounds inflicted during this unprovoked and despicable attack.

We also stand united today in expressing our deepest gratitude to all who demonstrated true courage and extraordinary heroism in that grocery store parking lot to prevent more lives from being lost and provide care for their neighbors in need.

Lives were lost and forever changed in an instant on Saturday. The anguish and sorrow will linger much longer.

That is why it is important to solemnly honor the memories of the victims of this dark day and, as the resolution we are voting on today states, reaffirm our belief in a democracy in which all can participate and in which intimidation and threats of violence cannot silence the voices of any American.

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say a few words honoring my friend and colleague, Rep. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

I first came to know GABBY when she joined the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of moderate, fiscally conservative Democrats of whom I have served as co-chairman.

I came to know—and admire—GABBY more when I travelled to her district in southern Arizona to host a town hall on agriculture with her.

As all who have met her know, GABBY is a bright, energetic young woman who is deeply committed to public service. That inner

strength will no doubt carry her through this tragedy and to a full recovery.

As painful as it may be to admit, this tragedy was not unexpected. GABBY's office had been the target of violence before.

And, as all of us who have held public events over the past few years know, the anger and vitriol has been escalating.

Sadly, it was only a matter of time before hateful speech turned to hateful action.

Passionate public debate is essential to our democracy. It is what our founders fought and died for, and it is what made the United States unique among nations at our birth.

But we must maintain respect and civility in our discussions. Elected officials have a responsibility to set an example and behave like statesmen.

The media have a responsibility to encourage debate, without feeding the flames of anger.

And the public has a responsibility to stand up and be strong voices in our democracy, without degrading the debate into petty name-calling.

As one of my colleagues said recently about a verbal attack made against him, "It's not what you meant to say that matters, or even how I understand it. What matters is how your words are interpreted by the least sane person in my district."

I look forward to the day—hopefully soon—when we will see GABBY back on this floor, fighting for her constituents in southern Arizona.

Until then, instead of pointing fingers and playing the blame game, let's take this tragedy as an opportunity to return civility to our democracy.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in supporting this resolution. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of residents and families I represent in Massachusetts, I respectfully offer my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of those who were killed last Saturday in Tucson, Arizona. I want to express my support for those who were injured. Let's hope their recovery is swift.

Our focus right now must remain on honoring the lives that were lost and the lives that will never be the same as a result of this unspeakable attack. However, as we turn to each other, seek solace and mourn, we cannot lose sight of the fact that extraordinary heroism and selfless courage could be found amid the horror of that day. The worst of tragedies brought out the best of humanity, as it so often does. There were men and women of all ages, who, in some cases, were injured themselves, shielding children from harm, tending to the injured, and apprehending the gunman. All of them put their own lives at risk to help save others.

I'd also like to convey the heartache and concern of my constituents—and all Americans—for my colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. As so many have noted, GABBY is a smart and honorable member of Congress, but even more so, she is a great person—a warm, caring, thoughtful, and a hard-working public servant who strives and succeeds in making a real difference for the people and community she represents. Our hearts go out to GABBY's husband, Mark Kelly, her parents and family, and her dedicated staff in Washington and Arizona.

It is well-known now that this shooting occurred while Congresswoman GIFFORDS was

conducting a "Congress on Your Corner" event, which gives her constituents an opportunity to meet directly with her and raise issues or ask questions of concern. All of us conduct events like this in some form as often as we can because it is such a fundamental aspect of our job. As Speaker BOEHNER said last week, "this is the people's House." Moving forward, even in this time of grief and sadness, I believe it is important to keep it that way. Rather than inappropriately increasing the barriers between us and those who we represent, we must stay committed to engaging in precisely the kind of activities that Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff undertook last Saturday. We must continue to travel around our communities and be in contact with those we represent. We must be more accessible, not less.

Madam Speaker, as we struggle to make sense of these horrific events, one thing remains perfectly clear to all of us in public life: this type of incident cannot be condoned—and our accessibility to our constituents cannot be curtailed—if our nation is to endure as a democratic republic.

Before I close, I again wanted to join my colleagues in remembering all the victims and rededicating ourselves to the enduring American values which Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff embody: openness, accessibility, and a sincere commitment to serve those who we represent.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the entire House Armed Services family in my shock and sadness at the shooting of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and members of her staff. The tragic events that occurred this past Saturday give us all reason to come together and reflect on the frailty of human life—my thoughts and prayers go out to GABBY, to her family, and to all the victims of this heinous crime. Violent acts of this nature have no place in our democratic society, and it is my hope that justice will be swift for those who perpetrated this attack.

I spoke with GABBY just before the holidays and am reminded of her tireless efforts to work across party lines in representing Arizona's 8th Congressional District, as well as her unwavering support for our men and women in uniform. Today we rise to honor the service of Representative GIFFORDS and offer our thoughts and prayers for her, her family, and all victims of this attack.

Mr. MARINO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my heartfelt sorrow for the tragic and senseless attack on Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff and constituents. I especially want to offer my condolences to the families of Christina Taylor Green, Judge John Roll, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman. Their memories will live on in the hearts of all Americans.

I would also like to send my best wishes to those who were wounded during the attack, particularly our colleague Representative GIFFORDS. We hope for your speedy and complete recovery.

Also important to remember are the heroic actions of the individuals who put their lives on the line to bring down the gunman before he had the opportunity to reload his weapon. Without your quick thinking and brave intervention this tragedy could have been much worse.

Finally, it is important to recognize the emergency responders, nurses, doctors, and

all medical personnel who have worked tirelessly throughout these difficult times. Your efforts undoubtedly saved lives and your dedication cannot be praised enough.

Again, my thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff, their families and everyone affected by the tragic events of January 8, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona.

It has been my honor to work with Congresswoman GIFFORDS here in Washington, and to call her a friend. Congresswoman GIFFORDS has earned her reputation as a pragmatic, rational and clear-minded lawmaker, and we are all better for having served with her. My wife and I have had the opportunity to spend time with her and her husband, who are truly patriotic and dedicated Americans not deserving of this fate.

The details of this horrifying event are still coming to light, but in these uncertain times it is my hope that we can come together to bring relief to the victims and justice to those responsible, not point partisan fingers or score political points. We owe it to those lost or wounded in this senseless crime to grieve for the fallen, pray for those in recovery and reflect on how we might better serve our office and the work of this great nation.

Madam Speaker, I know I speak for all my colleagues in wishing her a speedy recovery. I look forward to working with her again soon in the halls of Congress.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, Saturday was a tragic day for America. Like most Americans, my wife Vicki and I felt a profound loss because of the senseless attacks at a Congress on your Corner event held by Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

GABBY serves with me on the House Armed Services Committee, and all of us who have worked with her hold her in the highest regards as a hard-working public servant. The violent attack on a Member of Congress, her staff, and innocent constituents was not only an attack against humanity; it was also an attack on our freedom and democracy.

Throughout the history of our Nation, Americans have stood together in times of tragedy. Today we gather to honor that tradition and display our unwavering support for GABBY and the other victims and families affected by this attack. Let one man's senseless act not overshadow her service, or the lives of those who were tragically lost.

Vicki and I continue to pray for her full recovery, for her family and staff and all of those whose lives were gravely impacted and forever changed.

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, oh sister how I have cried, prayed, and listened to stories about you. I am so sorry for your pain of losses, and your pain through your recovery. But I am, at the same time, so proud of you and delighted you are alive.

For all the wrong reasons, today the world rightfully knows what a remarkable person you are. They know how fortunate our country has been to have you in public service. You still haven't stopped serving, because your injured life has given hope to millions that you will recover—and that those with like kinds of injuries may also have a chance. You are a national role model for public service—brave, kind, friendly, accessible and effective.

While praying for your life I recalled every conversation we had and each photo I have taken of you and Mark.

I remember when you were first elected in your great class of freshman. I was so proud to meet the woman that took Jim Kolbe's place. You had been a Fulbright Scholar in Mexico. We talked about your student life there and my similar age experience of being in Peace Corps in South America—how we had parallel experiences serving in the Arizona and California legislatures.

Starting with that first conversation, we both knew we were like brother and sister in a large body of Congress. Over the years I grew amazed at how hard you worked, and it made me wonder if you ever had time for yourself. Obviously meeting and marrying Mark, an admired astronaut, gave you an added value to life. This might be why you always came to work so happy. I pray that you never lose your happiness, as it always lightens up the room for others. But I do worry about how tough your district has made your campaign demands, and thus on your personal life.

Your recovery keeps me smiling, after the tears of tragedy, to watch you—once again—show me—while sitting in the Chamber—the marred of politicians on your Blackberry. GABBY you are the only member that has the full schedule of NASA launches and landings at your finger tips. This is just another example of how clever you are in application of technology to political life style.

So today our colleagues stand in the Chamber to salute you, to mourn the loss of other wonderful people, and to begin the dialogue on what we have learned from your tragic encounters.

I hope that we can learn and honor the victims, with smarter gun control and better funding for mental health treatment. And I hope we can develop a better understanding that hate talk and negative campaigning leaves the wrong impression for young people growing up in our society. A democracy based on negative talk can not survive.

I pray that you fully recover. I lost my 17-year-old sister from a horse accident, while she was visiting me in Colombia during my time with the Peace Corps. It was just months after my mother had died of cancer. My sister Nancy died because of the lack of medical care available in the rural hospital. So I am extremely relieved that the availability of good medical science and a rapid response saved your life.

We all look forward to seeing you back on the floor of the House of Representatives. You have always been the spirit of public service, and will continue to be forever more. God bless you GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues today to honor the 6 who died and the 14 who were wounded, including our own colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, in the horror which unfolded last Saturday morning in Tucson, Arizona.

I was at home Saturday checking my iPhone when I saw the shocking news of the shootings and that Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff were among the victims. What I read was hard to comprehend. She and her staff were doing their jobs, back in her district on a weekend, meeting with constituents in the finest example of representative government. And in a split second, the lives of those there were forever changed, and in a larger context, all of our lives have changed.

My heart and prayers go out to those who lost their lives and to their families. There was

9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, there to meet her representative because she wanted to become involved in government; Dorothy Morris, there with her husband of over 50 years, George, who was critically injured trying to shield his wife from the shooting; federal district Judge John Roll, who had just come from Mass, which he attended daily; Phyllis Schneck, age 79, who was spending the winter in Arizona; and Dorwan Stoddard, a 76-year-old retired construction worker, who shielded his wife Mavy, who sustained injuries in the shooting. And also slain was Gabe Zimmerman, the 30-year-old community outreach director for Congresswoman GIFFORDS, a congressional staffer like the thousands of dedicated public servants we have the privilege of working with in this House. Just there doing a job he loved serving the people.

I haven't had the privilege of getting to know GABBY as well as some have, but she and I shared an interest in keeping the space program strong. I pray for her full recovery and look forward to working with her again when she returns to this House. From what I know of her through other colleagues, GABBY GIFFORDS epitomizes what every member of this body aspires to be: a dedicated, courageous public servant with a heart of service and an optimism about America that is infectious.

Madam Speaker, we honor the memory of those whose lives were taken last Saturday and express our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends, and we pray for those who were wounded that they will recover quickly, including our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we honor Congresswoman GIFFORDS. The House stands together in support of her and in condemnation of a senseless attack that severely injured her and claimed six lives.

I have served with Representative GIFFORDS on the Science Committee, and am grateful for this opportunity to speak about her character and professionalism.

Representative GIFFORDS is a warm, friendly individual who is genuinely interested in others, and who always maintains an upbeat attitude.

She works hard to improve the lives of her constituents, and is engaged and energized about issues of concern to them. She also goes out of her way to be accessible, which is exactly what she was doing when this tragedy occurred.

The reprehensible attack that took place has united us as Members of Congress and reminded us that while the act of a lone gunman cannot always be prevented, we must make sure that justice prevails and that our democratic ideals remain secure.

We hope and pray for Representative GIFFORDS' full recovery.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memories of Gabe Zimmerman, Judge John Roll, Christina-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Dorwan Stoddard, and Phyllis Schneck. I rise also to voice my sincere hope for the recovery of our friend and colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and the others who were injured in Saturday's terrible shooting. The loss to the Congressional community and to Tucson has already been great. We can only hope the loss will not become even greater.

Representative GIFFORDS serves a politically divided community. As long as I have known

her, she's worked honestly and tirelessly to bridge that divide. There are few greater goals in public life than bringing people together and creating unity. Whatever your politics, Representative GIFFORDS is a listener and a seeker of solutions. In politics and in life, that is a rare thing.

She spread that ethic to her staff, as Tucson knows very well. Gabe Zimmerman, her director of community outreach, had an incredible and contagious desire to help people and make their lives better. When we speak of public service, we sometimes forget the many unelected but no less dedicated men and women whose work enriches the city, district, state or country they serve. Tucson, and I hope the country, will never forget public servants like Gabe. He will be missed by more people than he could ever know.

Judge Roll was a strong, honest and effective advocate for the American justice system, and his loss will be deeply felt. Christina Green, at only 9 years old, had already made an impression on everyone around her and will be long remembered. Dorwan Stoddard, a committed and long-time church volunteer, reportedly died saving his wife's life by shielding her from gunfire. Dorothy Morris and her husband, George, were together on that tragic day as they had been for the past 55 years of their happy marriage, and her daughters and family will hold her memory very close. Phyllis Schneck was an outgoing mother and grandmother known for her generosity and devotion to her family, and our thoughts go out to her and her loved ones today.

Alongside the victims of this tragedy, I would like to take a moment to recognize the many heroes of that day—people who offered medical assistance, alerted law enforcement, prevented further violence or assisted in too many other ways to count. This resolution names Patricia Maisch, Army Col. Bill Badger, Roger Sulzgeber, Joseph Zimudio, and Daniel Hernandez, Jr. To that list we can add brave people like Steven Rayle, an MD who was at the event and offered emergency medical attention to the wounded, and many others whose names may emerge over time.

It is in the spirit of unity that we all go forward together. As difficult as this time has been for Tucson and the Nation, this can be a moment when the best is truly in each of us. This can be a time when the truest values of humanity join us all—values that let us mourn appropriately, reflect together, take time for ourselves, and bring us closer. At this moment, there is no greater goal than to heal our wounds and grow stronger.

Out of great tragedy and sorrow, there will be a new America. Pain brings people together and reminds us of the time we all share on this Earth. It also reminds us of the value of being good to one another, and how easily we forget ourselves in a heated moment. Pain, as horrible as it is, is inevitable. Our lives cannot be free of it. What matters now—what always matters—is how we respond to it.

Our most important response will not be political—it will be simply human. It will be to build bridges and remember those who have died. Public life should be about bringing people together; so should private life. We are stronger and more human when we are together. That's true of a family, a community, and a country. In a very real sense, a country—our country—is a family. Families may fight, disagree and say things they regret, but

in the end, they come together. They rejoin their hands and make peace. This is a time to make peace in America.

There are few occasions to offer a call for national unity, and in our lifetimes there will be few others. I sincerely hope the next is not another tragedy. With that hope, today I add my voice to the many who call for a stronger national family. There is nothing more important.

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, along with the rest of the American people, I was shocked and saddened by news of the January 8, 2011 attack on Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her Congressional staff, Judge John Roll, and her constituents at a public event in Tucson, Arizona.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS is a dedicated public servant who was engaging in the most important role we have as Members of Congress: interacting with and listening to our constituents. January 8, 2011 was indeed a sad day for our Nation and this sick and senseless act of violence in Arizona has no place in our society.

My thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman GIFFORDS and the other victims of this unfathomable attack. May their families and friends find comfort and strength in knowing the American people are with them in spirit during this difficult time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I extend sympathies and well wishes to my colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of the 8th Congressional District of the State of Arizona. I wish a speedy recovery for this remarkable woman who has dedicated her life and career in service to her constituents.

I would also like to extend my deepest condolences to the families of the victims who were fatally wounded: nine-year-old Christina Taylor Green, Congressional Staffer Gabe Zimmerman, Federal Judge John Roll, and Arizona citizens Dorwin Stoddard, Phyllis Schneck, as well as Dorothy Morris. To the people of Tucson, Arizona affected by this random, senseless act of violence, my thoughts and prayers remain with you.

As they work through the ineffable tragedy which befell this community on Saturday, January 8, 2011, I must commend the tireless efforts of Pima County's first responders, as well as the efforts of bystanders in their role to restore and maintain order during this tragedy. With their efforts, lives were saved.

America is mourning both for the victims of this tragedy and for the assault against our constitutional right to peaceably assemble. That our citizens can fall under attack while upholding our Democratic values is deplorable. We must never allow an act of violence to thwart this right.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of the Resolution before this chamber today which condemns this indiscriminate act of violence and honors Representative GIFFORDS as she fights to recover.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences regarding the terrible events that took place on Saturday, January 8, 2011, in Tucson, Arizona. The attempted assassination of Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and the killing of six people, including a 9-year-old child, a federal judge, and a congressional aide, is an unspeakable tragedy.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS is not only an esteemed colleague of mine, she is my friend.

It has been an honor to serve alongside of her on the Armed Services Committee, and I have witnessed first-hand her dedication. GABRIELLE's passion for her job is evident to all those who know her, and it is no surprise to me that GABRIELLE was doing what she loves most on that horrible Saturday. I look forward to her full and speedy recovery, and I anxiously await her return to Congress.

While I am hopeful about GABRIELLE's recovery, I am heartbroken over the deaths of the six innocent people caught at the wrong place, at the wrong time. Christina Taylor Green, who was only 9 years old, was recently elected to her school's student council and hoped to speak with a government official that tragic day. Pennsylvania native and Federal judge, John Roll, was hoping to meet with his Congresswoman to discuss overcrowding of prisons. Gabriel Zimmerman was struck while carrying out his duties as the Congresswoman's Director of Community Outreach. Dorothy Morris, Dorwan Stoddard, and Phyllis Schneck were going about their regular Saturday activities and hoped they would get a chance to speak with their member of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I hope that all those touched by these tragic events find peace and comfort. Saturday, January 8, 2011 should be a reminder to all Americans that there is no place for violence in a free political process. I continue to pray for those that were lost and for the recovery of those who were wounded, and I hope we as a country can move forward and learn from this tragedy.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 32, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011. Last Saturday's senseless and vile act of violence wounded Congresswoman GIFFORDS at an event with her constituents. Six Americans were tragically killed and 14 others, including relatives of the slain, are recovering.

First, above all else, I want to express how deeply saddened I am by this weekend's events. Congresswoman GIFFORDS is a dedicated public servant, a cherished colleague, and a friend. I join with all Americans in wishing GABBY and the other wounded a speedy recovery. I also mourn the loss of those who passed. Gabriel Zimmerman was Congresswoman GIFFORDS' community outreach director. Dorwin Stoddard, a retiree, was waiting in line with his wife to speak to the Congresswoman and protected his wife from the gunman's bullets. The youngest victim was 9-year-old Christina Green who had just been elected to her elementary school's student council. Dorothy Murray was a retired homemaker and her husband was among the injured. Phyllis Schneck, also a retiree and a New Jersey native, spent winters in Arizona. Chief Judge John Roll was a respected jurist who served on the federal bench since 1991 and became Chief Judge in 2006.

Last Saturday, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS was doing the people's business, meeting constituents in front of a local grocery store and explaining how government can improve their lives. She was doing her job: connecting her constituents to their government.

The tragic event should cause us all to stop and consider what more we can do to change the tone of our national politics. In recent years, it seems that politicians and other

public figures have increasingly utilized political rhetoric that includes violent imagery to make a point. We can do better. We must do better.

As someone who knew the late Dr. Martin Luther King, I have drawn inspiration during this crisis from one of his statements. Dr. King believed that "nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him." As we approach the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday, I hope we can reflect on these words and his teachings and make our world a more just and peaceful place.

Mr. LUJAN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to mourn the victims of Saturday's tragic shooting that took the lives of six people, injured numerous others, and left our friend and colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, fighting for her life. In an instant, the Tucson community, and indeed the entire country, was shocked by the senseless violence and saddened by the loss.

For four years, GABBY GIFFORDS has been a well-respected member of this body, serving her constituents with determination and distinction. To those who know her, it comes as no surprise that she is fighting with such tenacity to recover from this severe injury. I wish her all the best on a full and speedy recovery and look forward to the day when we will welcome her back to this chamber.

I know I join with my constituents in New Mexico in honoring those who lost their lives in this heinous attack, those who wanted nothing more than to be part of our democratic process and speak with their elected representative or dedicate themselves to public service. Their memory will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with all of those involved in this tragedy as well as their families and friends during this difficult time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart at this moment of great sadness in our nation's history. The violence we witnessed last weekend in Arizona still seems so unreal, so shocking, so unbelievable. Only a few days ago, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS stood in the well of the House reading the First Amendment, and today she is fighting to regain her ability to speak.

I keep hoping that in the midst of this great tragedy, we will say enough is enough. I keep hoping we will finally find it necessary to teach the way to love, the way of peace and non-violence, not only to our children, but that we will embrace it among ourselves as adults and as national leaders. We pray a special prayer today for all of the people of Arizona, but especially GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and her husband Mark Kelly.

Representative GIFFORDS is one of the most hopeful, optimistic people you would ever want to meet. She is wonderful. She is smart, and she is beautiful. I hope that one day soon she will rejoin us in this chamber. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and the families of all those who were hurt, those who are still struggling to be made whole, and with the families of all those who were slain. May God bless them all in these difficult hours.

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to support House Resolution 32, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8,

2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their loved ones, including my friend and colleague GABBY GIFFORDS, the Giffords staff, and all who are mourning this tragedy in Arizona and across the Nation.

The events of this weekend are difficult to comprehend. GABBY is a champion for her constituents and it was because of her devotion to them that she was outside a local grocery store the Saturday morning when she nearly lost her life. As the tragedy unfolded, she was surrounded by a group of dutiful staff and constituents, including an intern who may have saved her life, and many who so unbelievably lost their own lives or were injured.

I have gotten to know GABBY through our shared efforts to advance renewable energy policies, including our working together on the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition. She's bright and engaging, and is always bringing in fresh ideas to achieve solutions to our Nation's energy problems. My heart is with her and her husband at this moment as she fights for her recovery. If there is anyone who can pull through, I believe it will be GABBY.

It is in times like these that I believe our Nation can rise above our past and shine brighter than we have before. While it will take time to learn exactly why this has happened, I hope that as we heal, our Nation will find a way to be more compassionate, understanding and peaceful.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with all of my colleagues here to honor the victims of the tragedy in Tucson and to speak of our great colleague GABBY GIFFORDS.

We are all encouraged by the signs of recovery that GABBY is showing every day she has been in the hospital. Our prayers are with her, her husband Commander Mark Kelly and her entire family.

As Co-Chair of the Traumatic Brain Injury Taskforce I know GABBY faces a long road. We now she is receiving the best care in the world—but even more importantly we all know that she's a fighter and that's exactly what she's doing now.

On Monday in honor of the victims in Tucson I called for a Week of Solidarity in the 8th District of New Jersey.

I love that word "solidarity" and all it represents. I wanted all our faith leaders to hold services and events this week—in order for our collective community to reflect on this national tragedy and pray for the victims and their families and for all of America.

As tragically occurred in Tucson, too many of our communities have been afflicted by gun violence—as a nation now is the time to heal with our words and find unity where there may be strife.

I find it especially appropriate that the end of this week will culminate with the observance of Martin Luther King Day—a man who gave our entire Nation the chance to find solidarity with each other—it is a bond that serves us well in the wake of this tragedy.

The victims in Tucson truly embody the greatest spirit of our Nation, you had individuals from every different background, both young and old, coming together as citizens to take part in one of the most essential rites of our representative democracy—it is indeed government of the people, by the people, for the people.

I hope we will all look towards GABBY's example and use it to guide us towards a better public discourse with each other—I think we

can all agree that too often these days our political rhetoric has gotten overheated and vitriolic. Lower our voices and raise our commitment to peaceful resolve.

I want to make this very clear, this is not about being on the left or the right—the shooting in Tucson was an attack on all Americans from a perpetrator who tried to strike at the very heart of our great democracy.

Being from Paterson, NJ and it being the day after Alexander Hamilton's birthday, I am reminded of one of the greatest political debates in the history of our Nation between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.

The nature of the debate between Hamilton and Jefferson was as monumental in their day as it is in ours—their arguments went to the very core of our Nation in its infancy and the issues they debated remain contested to this day—yet despite the gravity of their discussion not once did they cross the line from fierce disagreement to considering violent solutions.

I hope we will use this occasion to pause and recognize that in our great Nation we each have a responsibility to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our fellow citizens in times both good and bad.

Names of the Victims: Chief Judge John Roll, 63; Christina Taylor Green, 9; Dorothy Morris, 76; Phyllis Scheck, 79; Dorwan Stoddard, 76; and Gabriel "Gabe" Zimmerman, 30, (GIFFORDS's staff as a Community Outreach Director).

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is with heartfelt sadness that today I remember those who lost their lives in this bravery in trying to stop the gunman. I remember those who were wounded and even now are fighting to recover from their wounds. I remember all of the family members who are struggling with great losses. Finally, I remember with hope for her speedy recovery, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

This is a sad time for our Nation, a time when we reflect on how all too often violence strikes and randomly takes some of our best and brightest. All of the lives that were lost were special to those who loved them—to their spouses and their children and their grandchildren. Judge John Roll was a public official serving our country with distinction and dedication. Christina Taylor Green was a young child with an interest in learning more about how government works. I hope that in the future our children will be able to meet with their representatives without endangering their lives.

As a Member of Congress who has worked with Representative GIFFORDS, I am especially touched by this senseless tragedy. Representative GIFFORDS is a very friendly, hard working colleague. She is someone who is easy to get along with and always willing to chat and lend a helping hand. She was doing what is expected of all of us who represent our constituents—we meet with our constituents and we listen to their concerns and we try to help them. That is what we were elected to do—and so it is especially hard to see that one of our own was injured while doing—what we all do—our job.

Please let me conclude by saying that my thoughts and prayers are with all of those who died or were injured and with the families who loved them. My prayers are with Representative GIFFORDS as she recovers and my hope is that soon she will be back with us here in the House of Representatives where she belongs.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask all Americans to join me in my prayers for Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' speedy and full recovery. I extend my thoughts to her husband, Captain Mark Kelly, their family, and those of all the staff and constituents who were innocent victims of this traumatic event.

At a time like this we should also remember that all of our staffs could be in harm's way, just by working with us. Staff is a vital part of our lives, and without them we would not be able to function. While everyone is concerned about Members' safety, I think we should also be concerned for our staff.

Such act of violence on GABBY, her staff and constituents is a threat to the virtue of open government and has no place in our democracy. Concern for safety should not stand between public officials and the people. My constituents in Upper Manhattan have a special understanding of this tragedy because of the amount of gun violence we have in the district.

GABBY is one of the most charming and brilliant stars I have seen in Congress. She is a true dedicated public servant who works tirelessly for the people of her district and our great country. I have great love and affection for GABBY and I look forward to seeing my dear colleague and friend back in Washington very soon.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 32 and to offer my thoughts and prayers for my friend and colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, as well as the 18 other victims of Saturday's unthinkable tragedy in Tucson.

I hope and pray for the wellbeing of all those battling for their lives and offer my deepest condolences to those who did not survive—Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Judge John M. Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwin Stoddard, and Gabe Zimmerman. My heart goes out to the families and loved ones of all involved.

Congress on Your Corner is democracy in action. Ms. GIFFORDS, her staff, and everyone attending Saturday's event were doing what this country is built on: participating in a conversation between an elected official and the people she represents. As sadness gives way to reflection, I hope we will remain committed to that ideal.

Just 2 years ago, I was a new member of this body. GABBY GIFFORDS greeted me with warmth, kindness, and friendship. With all my heart, I hope to one day return the favor.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in support of this resolution and to offer heartfelt sympathies on behalf of myself, my family, staff and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands to the people of the Eighth District of Arizona, our colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff, their families and all others who were hurt or killed in the tragic and senseless attack in Tucson, Arizona.

Everywhere that I went at home, my constituents responded with outrage, but also prayerfully to this horrendous event. Our churches devoted Sunday services in memory of those who died, offered prayers for speedy and full recovery for those injured, for the affected families, for the residents of the district and for our nation as well as in grateful tribute to all who responded and continue to respond.

We joined our fellow Americans in the moment of silence on Monday.

I, like all of my colleagues, and all public figures understand and accept the risks of being in public office and we and those charged with the responsibility of protecting us act to mitigate these risks. However we are here to represent the residents of our districts and are committed to doing what is needed to do so to the best of our ability. That means that we must meet, listen and interact with our constituents as much as possible. This incident will not prevent us from doing so,

But just as we continue to carry out our duties, it is the responsibility of everyone, but particularly those who have a public platform, to be responsible in what they communicate to the public and how.

There are many who warned that the increasingly inflammatory rhetoric of the past year, especially as the campaigns got underway, could lead to some kind of violent action.

That being said I do not intend to point fingers or cast blame, but ask only that each and every one of us here and across this country honestly and fully examine our hearts, our consciences and our past words and actions and ensure that going forward all that we do and say reflect respect and unity instead of discord, divisiveness and violence.

As someone who has abhorred violence and worked for peace all of my life, I have had the great privilege and honor of joining my distinguished colleague JOHN LEWIS and the Faith and Politics Institute almost every year that they have held it on the civil rights pilgrimage to pay tribute to all who work for justice and equality but also to renew my dedication to non-violence and my commitment to furthering the beloved community envisioned by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is a spiritual, renewing and life enriching—for some, life changing experience—and I would urge as many as can to attend this year.

Our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, as many have already said and everyone now knows is a special person. Many of us supported her during what was an extremely difficult and unnecessarily bitter campaign. She may not have always voted as I would have wanted her to, but she is without a doubt fearless and faithful in the representation of her district and all of us respect her highly and love her dearly. We thank God that she is progressing well and we pray for her full and speedy recovery. This body is incomplete without her presence.

As we approach the hard fought for Martin Luther King holiday, let us all rededicate ourselves to the principles he espoused, commit ourselves to continuing his legacy and to being drum majors for justice and peace!

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32, honoring our colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and those killed and injured in a senseless shooting during a Congress on Your Corner event in Tucson, Arizona. Our colleague GABBY was doing her job to serve the constituents of the 8th Congressional District of Arizona, those who were killed and wounded were there to participate in the democratic process we hold dear. As the nation mourns with the victims' families, we learn about these innocent Americans whose lives were cut short by this unspeakable crime against our democracy and our humanity.

Dorothy Morris, age 76, known to her friends as "Dot," was a retired homemaker and secretary who lived with her husband of

50 years, George, at a retirement community just north of Tucson. When the shots rang out, George, a former Marine and retired airline pilot, threw himself on his wife in an attempt to shield her from the bullets. George survived after suffering two gunshot wounds; Dorothy did not.

Judge John Roll, age 63, was the chief judge of Arizona's Federal district court. Appointed to the Federal bench in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush, Judge Roll was a widely respected jurist by his colleagues. Known for this deep Catholic faith, it is reported that Judge Roll was simply stopping by the event to say hello to his friend, GABBY, after morning mass. Judge Roll is survived by his wife, Maureen, their three sons, and five grandchildren.

Phyllis Schneck, age 79, a widow and retired homemaker, was a native of Rutherford, New Jersey, where she would return during the hot Tucson summers. Phyllis is known by her three children, seven grandchildren, and great-granddaughter as a talented cook, and she spent much of her retirement volunteering at her church. According to her daughter, Phyllis was a registered Republican who was not involved in politics, but Representative GIFFORDS was "the first person she really took a liking to."

Dorwin Stoddard, age 76, was a Tucson native and leader in his church. Dorwin attended the event with his wife Mavy, a high school classmate who he reunited with and married after both their former spouses passed away. After seeing Mavy shot and wounded, Dorwin threw himself on her and shielded her from the spray of bullets. As Dorwin's stepdaughter noted, "What a way to go, as the hero, he lived that kind of a life."

Gabe Zimmerman, age 30, was the Director of Community Outreach for Representative GIFFORDS. Oftentimes the face of Representative GIFFORDS's office to her constituents, as one of his colleagues said, "Gabe helped people for a living." Gabe was engaged to be married with a wedding date set for 2012.

The youngest victim, Madam Speaker, was Christina Taylor Green, age 9, a third grade student at Mesa Verde Elementary School. Christina had recently been elected to the student council and was inspired into politics by President Obama's 2008 campaign. A neighbor brought Christina to the event to meet her Congresswoman. Born on the fateful day of September 11, 2001, Christina was taken from her parents and this nation on January 8, 2011.

Madam Speaker, today, with the passage of House Resolution 32, the People's House mourns with family and with the nation for these innocent lives cut short. During these trying times for our nation, I am reminded of what Senator Robert F. Kennedy once said in his remarks to the Cleveland City Club just months before he was assassinated.

"A sniper is only a coward, not a hero; and an uncontrolled, uncontrollable mob is only the voice of madness, not the voice of the people.

"Whenever any American's life is taken by another American unnecessarily—whether it is done in the name of the law or in the defiance of law, by one man or a gang, in cold blood or in passion, in an attack of violence or in response to violence—whenever we tear at the fabric of life which another man has painfully and clumsily woven for himself and his children, the whole nation is degraded."

Now is a time for reflection. My prayers and condolences are with the fallen victims' families and with those, including GABBY, who are making their way along the long road to recovery from the injuries they suffered. May our nation honor the loss of innocent lives with greater peace and understanding.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, West Virginians' hearts are heavy for our fellow citizens lost last weekend in Tucson, Arizona. To those recovering, our dear colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, our thoughts and fervent prayers are offered.

Our country's resolve is strengthened each time it is tested. Citizen participation is the democratic bedrock of our more perfect Union.

Representative GIFFORDS understands the value of constant constituent conversation, and her example shines as a beacon for public office holders throughout our Republic to follow.

May GABBY's dedication to others serve her recovery, as the blessings we celebrate in the Book of Ruth, "a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age."

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, today I join with my colleagues in condemning the savage attack in Tucson last Saturday that shattered the lives of so many innocent victims, and their families and friends, and broke the heart of a nation. Since the news of this awful tragedy, I have prayed through tears for comfort, and for peace in the midst of the storm, for the families of the six people whose lives were senselessly ended by a gunman who had no concern for human life. I have also been praying for healing for those who were injured; among them a respected colleague and friend, GABBY GIFFORDS.

GABBY and I came to Congress together in 2006. Over the years we have often voted differently. From time to time, we found ourselves at opposite ends of the table during media interviews, offering contrasting viewpoints. But the moment we stepped away from the set, we greeted each other as we often did on the House floor, as friends, with a hug, a warm smile, and a few precious moments of conversation. I cherished those times with GABBY, and I look forward to renewing them as she recovers and returns to the good, faithful, and hard-working service that she has given to the people of Arizona's 8th District.

I am rejoicing to hear the doctor's prognosis of recovery for GABBY, but my heart is broken for the families of the six victims who lost loved ones in that unconscionable act last Saturday. They were American citizens who were brutally gunned down even as they were taking advantage of the time-honored American tradition of meeting face-to-face with an elected representative for a free and open discourse about issues of concern. One of the small ways we can honor their memory is to carry on with that discourse, opening our doors to the American people, listening to their concerns, and exercising the free exchange of ideas that has marked our nation throughout its history.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, last Saturday in Tucson, Arizona our colleague, Rep. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, was shot by a disturbed gunman while she was meeting her constituents. This shooting resulted in the death of six Americans who were participating in the most common of events in this democracy, a meeting with their congresswoman. Fourteen additional Americans were wounded in the attack,

including the critical wound suffered by Congresswoman GIFFORDS.

On January 10, 2011, dozens of concerned and compassionate Minnesotans visited my St. Paul District Office to express their support for Congresswoman GIFFORDS, the victims, and the people of Tucson. They also expressed their heartfelt condolences to those who were killed.

With the consent of the concerned citizens who I have the honor to represent, I submit the eloquent words of Minnesotans who send their prayers and support for Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and all of those whose lives have been hurt by this senseless act of violence. I join them not only in praying for healing and peace, but I will continue to dedicate myself to working to make a more peaceful and less hostile America.

The following comments were made by Minnesotans who visited my St. Paul district office on Monday, January 10, 2011. These messages of support and sympathy were transcribed directly from their individual handwritten notes.

"My prayers and thoughts are with the Congresswoman and her staff. This act of horrific violence was a response to the everyday work that public officials do on a daily basis to serve their constituents. Congresswoman Giffords and her staff's work exemplifies this. I hope that the Congresswoman can continue to do this important work." Henry Parker, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"It is here my daughters, that love is to be found, not hidden away in the corners but in the midst of occasions of sin. And believe me, although we may more often fail and commit small lapses, our gain will be incomparably the greater."—Saint Teresa of Avila" Loren Cramer, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"I'm so sorry to hear of this violent attack in Tucson. I hope for and pray for Giffords and others." Mary Doran, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Keep up your work. We need you now more than ever." Jason Garrett, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"God bless America. Thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families." Nicole Ly, Oakdale, Minnesota.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with you, your staff, and your family during this difficult time. You have the nation behind you with an outpouring of love and well wishes." Shelly Schafer, Woodbury, Minnesota.

"Although Congresswoman Giffords may have been the target, all citizens who engage their elected officials have become unsettled by this act. Civil war < Be civil." Mary Jane LaVigne, Birchwood Village, Minnesota.

"I am so sad to hear about the shooting. I pray for your recovery. I want you to be strong and continue to be the fighter that you are so you can continue to walk and serve the people of America. Thank you for your service. Your district is giving up a lot for America and my thoughts are with you." Kao Ly Ilean Her, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"My heart goes out to the Giffords family. I was born and raised in Tucson, and now serve in the Minnesota House. To think our public servants are under attack is so sad. We pray for you Gabby. We pray for the victims." Nora Slawik, Maplewood, Minnesota.

"Our thoughts and our prayers are with all the victims of the Arizona shooting!" Susan Zumberge, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to you, the other victims, their loved ones, and the

people of your congressional district. We hope that if any good will come of this horrific event, it will be that people will once again realize that our fellow citizens, regardless of political views, are human and deserve to be treated with respect and civility. Our words can have consequence so far beyond our intent." Steve Schaus & Angela Braun, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"My heart is terribly heavy with this horrific event. For any public servant to be struck down while serving the people is an appalling affront to every citizen. For innocent and random people to be struck down in this way is an affront to all humanity. Let us all pray for the families of the victims, and work for peace among all people." Ross Willits, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Gabby, you are in my thoughts and prayers as you recover. I am deeply saddened that someone like yourself who has willingly given of themselves has become a victim of such a senseless act. We pray that the rhetoric that inflames will be replaced by words of cooperation and collaboration in our houses of Congress. Blessings to you and your family." Jeanne Sedgwick, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"There are no words at my command to express my sorrow at what happened and my warm best wishes to all you so affected by truly cruel and senseless violence." Elmer Pierre, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Rep. Giffords: Please accept my deepest condolences. I also wish you immense strength and courage." Heather Meyers, Eagan, Minnesota.

"As someone who has been involved in politics for years and met many members of Congress, I was horrified as I watched the events of this past weekend unfold. I was deeply saddened by this attack and I want to show my support for the victims and their families. I hope and pray for a speedy recovery and I believe that Congresswoman Giffords' service and devotion to her country is truly heroic. You are in the hearts and minds of all Americans. God bless." John Moore, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"I offer prayers for Representative Giffords, her family, and all others affected by this senseless, terrible tragedy. The wounded and killed, especially Christina Green and her family. May you be comforted and strengthened by the prayers of our nation." Florence Steichen, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"We need better gun control measures and an increase in civil discourse—sending prayers to the families who lost loved ones in this senseless act of violence and also to the family of Congresswoman Giffords for her speedy and full recovery." Lyn Burton, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Congresswoman Giffords: Thank you for your service. Thank you for your support of health care reform. Prayers for you and your family for strength in adversity." Mary J. Pohl, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"The rhetoric of violence, scapegoating and demonization must end! My sympathy to Rep. Giffords, her family, her staff and all victims of violence in Tucson." Richard Lee Dechert, Maplewood, Minnesota.

"My prayers, thoughts, and heartfelt sympathy go out to Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords's family, friends, and supporters. My daily prayers will include the wishes for the long term recovery of Congresswoman Giffords. I express my heartfelt thoughts and prayers for the Federal Judge, the young girl

and all others who died or were harmed by this uncaring perpetrator." Fred Gates, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Please know that you are loved and supported in vastly greater measure than the distortion and hatred that made this unspeakable tragedy possible." Lori Stee, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"My thoughts are with Rep. Giffords' family as they support Gabrielle's recovery and with the others affected by this violent act. We are incredibly lucky to live in a country where political violence is extremely rare. The rhetoric that creates a context for violence must cease. Hate is not a response for disagreement." Anne Clafin, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"I extend my deepest condolences to Congresswoman Giffords and all the victims of this senseless tragedy. There are consequences to the violent rhetoric that plagues the political landscape today—it's the innocent and the brave that suffer." Dr. Mary de Leon-Denton, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

"My prayers are with you and especially I pray that somehow, someday, some good will come of this horrible tragedy." Michael Michauk, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Congresswoman Giffords, I give you my deepest and heartfelt support to the service and honor you give to our country. The needless violence and anger that has been shown in our country over politics has to stop. It is sad that something like this had to happen in order for the dialogue to begin to change how we promote change with deepest prayers and sympathy to all harmed." Aaron Crawford, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"In this time of great sorrow and shock, my great hope is that all this will serve to wake up those in our nation who don't believe that gun violence is a huge problem that needs to be addressed—yet again. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you—and with our country!" Julie B. Goldstein, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"To Congresswoman Giffords, her family and those injured and killed: This morning I received a note from two constituents—St Paulites in the summer and Arizona snowbirds in the winter. Gene and Ginny shared their affection for 'our dear Gabby'. The road ahead is difficult for all of us. I wish you strength in your recovery and wisdom for all Americans as we reconcile the meaning of this tragedy with our own actions as citizens. To be truly free from violence and persecution, we must persist in our efforts to maintain an open society where we can disagree peacefully and move forward together. My best to you and your families." Minnesota State Rep. Erin Murphy, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"To Congresswoman Giffords, victims, and their family and friends: My heart goes to all of you, and I continue to pray for all of you. Public service is noble work, and it is difficult. Thank you for all you do, and know the goodwill of the people of our state and country is with you at this very difficult time. Together, we will heal and find grace in our democracy." Minnesota State Rep. Kate Knuth, New Brighton, Minnesota.

"My heart bleeds for all of you. Courage." Ted King, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"May you experience a speedy recovery. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family." Peter Austin, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"May you heal and feel better in time. You are in our prayers. May God be with you. You are in our thoughts as you recover from this

tragic event.” Paehin Young, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“Thank you for all your service to the country. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your staff. We need more people like you.” Sam Dougherty, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Our prayers go out to those affected by this attack” Kevin Weingart, Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

“My thoughts are with you and your community in this time where senseless violence has changed how everyone feels. Public servants and those who engage in our government and the political process should not fear for their safety. I hope that everyone affected by this tragedy can come together in solidarity. Thank you for your service and bravery.” Meagan Bachmayer, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“May the sun rise in your hearts and souls. Our deepest condolences, warm wishes and never-ending prayers are with you.” Jill Curran, Larry Wichlans and Family, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“I feel so saddened by the events in Tucson, AZ. My sincerest sympathies go out to all the victims. God bless, Gundy.” Gundy Gunderson, Oakdale, Minnesota.

“A truly tragic moment in our nation’s history. My prayers and support are with the victims and our nation’s leadership as we struggle with the complex issues that led to this violent event.” Cheryl Westman, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Thank you for doing this, our prayers are with the Giffords family. This is not what our country is about. It is time to come together.” Jody Prip, New Prague, Minnesota.

“Blessings of hope and prayers for each one of the innocents killed and injured in this tragedy. This feels the same as the tragedies of Bobby Kennedy, MLK and 9/11. God help us all—if we calm down—we will get through this.” Robert F. Riesert, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Following the violence, it has been a painful and angry weekend—much of it emailing my own vitriolic reaction to personal friends. Expressing fear for our country and the safety of our representatives was a helpful and immediate necessity. The shock remains although many of us, as was Gabby herself, feared the new language and images presented often now in a repetitive fashion filling the airwave and filling especially vulnerable minds with pictures of weapons as political tools. We shared emails then too, as we heard and watched the rhetoric become louder and scarier. Helpless to counteract these emotional appeals, we signed petitions condemning them. We still wait helplessly for the apology that will not come. We pray for cool down and safety.” Janyce Kovash, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“‘Violence is a cycle,’ said Dr. King. When met with senseless actions against public servants and the public at large, we must strive to do justice to the sacrifice and heroism of so many—by reaching out to those who serve and thanking them by tamping down the rhetoric and respecting those of all political persuasions. And also by answering the call to justice and caring for our friends and neighbors. We will never have a satisfactory answer to the question ‘why?’ but we can use the moment to consider for fully ‘how?’—How do we ensure that this never happens again? My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives, especially Gabe Zimmerman, who gave his life in service to the

people of Arizona. It could have been any of us. I also wish Rep. Giffords a speedy recovery and hope to see her return to the House and serve her constituents.” Devin Driscoll, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Please accept my deep sympathies for your current situation. We as, U.S. citizens, are a very special society. Those that attempt to steal our lives, and the lives of our friends, will find that we are strong in the face of adversity. The actions against the U.S. citizens in Tucson, including Rep. Giffords, are a tragedy that I hope is never repeated. Trusting in God’s healing and your full recovery.” Jim McKie, West St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Thank you for all of your work and service. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family and we hope you have a speedy recovery.” Warren Claflin, South St. Paul, Minnesota.

“This weekend’s events were a sad reminder of the consequences that can arise when political rhetoric becomes hateful or violent. Angry, upset and unbalanced people respond in unpredictable ways. Thank you, Rep. Giffords, for your service to your district and your country. Thank you to the staff that helps you in this work. No American should ever fear violence as a consequence of participation in our democracy.” Paul Rohlfing, lives in Minneapolis, works in St. Paul.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family from the St. Paul Federation of Teachers in St. Paul, Minnesota.” Julie Hawkins, Inver Grove, Minnesota.

“I feel anguish at this terrible violence (senseless) and the resulting loss of life and hurt. Gun violence is too prevalent in our society and too many unstable people have too easy access to guns. I do lay some blame on radio shows with hosts that stoke the flames of people’s anger and sit back and say they have no responsibility. Please continue to get stronger and the keep the faith.” Julia Fish, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“In these challenging times, know that the thoughts, prayers, and best wishes of all Americans are with you and your family. We mourn the loss of life, and share your vision of a healthier and stronger country. One of my close friends works in Congresswoman McCollum’s office in St. Paul. I know how hard our public servants work, and you must be so proud of the bravery of your young staff intern, Daniel. I am sorry beyond words that this happened. Peace to you, and all who were impacted by this tragedy.” Adam Robinson, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families involved in this terrible tragedy. Hopefully this will become a time of healing, and a time when the vitriol between opposite sides ceases. We pray that Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and all the wounded recover. Our condolences go to those who lost their lives in Tucson. We pray for the safety of all public officials, and the continuing health of our nation.” Tom and Susan Pugh, South St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Our thoughts are with you as you recover from this brutal and senseless attack. I am confident you will continue to serve the people of Arizona and the United States. To the families who are struggling with this unimaginable loss, the thoughts and prayers of the nation are with you.” Samantha Gemberling, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“I wish Congresswoman Giffords, and all others who were wounded, a steady and com-

plete recovery. I also wish to extend my sympathy to you who lost family members. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.” Cheryl Kenney, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“My prayers are with Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and all who have been injured or killed in this vicious act of violence against persons serving US citizens as part of this great democracy—also with all who love them. To be engaged in dialogue on the issues—to engage civilly in our civic process needs to be returned to our democracy from citizens to the media to the halls of Congress. Committed to civil civic engagement and to prayers for our prayers for our nation as we move forward from this tragedy, I remain,” “Ginger” K. Virginia Hidsfrom, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“My family and I were stunned to hear of this senseless violence. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Our heartfelt condolences go to the families of those killed, and we pray for ongoing strength for those wounded and their families.” Kathleen Proctor, Lauderdale, Minnesota.

“To all in Tucson, AZ affected by this senseless tragedy: You have support from us in Minnesota by way of encouragement during your time of pain and grief. We will advocate for a return to civil discourse in the US rather than vitriolic campaign language that goes on. May your pain and anguish turn into positive communication among people in every community of our country.” Joanne Tromiczak-Neid, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“My heartfelt wishes and prayers to Congresswoman Giffords, her staff, and constituents she proudly represents. My heart, mind, and soul grieve for those who have died and have been injured by this senseless act of violence. May we, as citizens of the United States, and as members of our global world, continue to foster peaceful solutions to violence that surrounds us.” Mary Tacheny, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“My prayers go out to you, you who were injured or killed, your families, your friends, your loved ones. My prayers go out to you, you who witnessed the violence, you whose lives won’t be the same. I pray for the person who did this. Only God understands. I pray for our country to find peace. God bless you all. May somehow, some good come of this.” Laura K. Kochevar, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“I thank all public servants and especially their staff for their dedication to the people they serve. As a former staffer, my heart goes out to all the families directly affected by this tragedy. Also I send the thoughts and prayers to every Member of Congress and their staff to get through this and pray that our country will learn from this and stop the incendiary rhetoric. Thank you.” Kathleen Murphy, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“We are all saddened by this tragedy. As Speaker Boehner said, ‘An attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve.’ We all stand with you and your staff in solidarity as we grieve this incident and work to make sense of this senseless event. We thank you for your sacrifices in service to the people of Arizona’s 8th District. May you all have a speedy recovery and also never forget those who were lost, and use the memories we have as a guide and inspiration for the future. God-speed, Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Green, Judge John Roll, Dorothy Morris, Dorwan Stoddard, and Phyllis Schneck.” Melissa Jamrock, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Change-makers walk a difficult and scary path. But one that gives us hope and energy. Thank you for walking, for walking yours with courage and pluck. My heart aches for the violence, pain, and fear that has been done to all of you and us. I send you my heartfelt wishes for healing, safety, and peace." Sheri Smith, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Love will conquer all. Remember you have the support of the people. Be well." Chuck Repile, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"My deepest sympathies for Congresswoman Giffords, her staff, and their families during this difficult time. I wish the Congresswoman and all those injured a speedy recovery." Cameron Erickson, Eagan, Minnesota.

"To all parties involved: This is a tragedy in every sense. Not only for Rep. Giffords, Chief Justice Roll, and the other civilians involved. Now, more than ever, it has become apparent we are a broken, divided nation in need of repair and healing. We must disconnect from hateful political rhetoric and campaigns and come together in this time of tragedy. God bless the Giffords." Louise Dickson, North Oaks, Minnesota.

"To all AZ residents: This is truly a tragic time, not only for the families of those directly affected by this horrible incident, but all residents of the 8th district and the state. They have lost their representation and voice in DC and in government—the foundation of our country. That a mentally ill young man did not get the help needed, was allowed to legally purchase a weapon, and used it against innocent citizens—is wrong. That our political discourse has gotten so angry that it fed this young man's delusions is wrong. We must always remember there are other Loughners out there. May all those wounded hail those who died and may we all learn from this." Laura Neritt, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Thank you and thanks to all our U.S. representatives for your dedicated service. Our freedom sits with all of us as you represent we all the people. I pray for your good health and protection." Carol Gariann, Shoreview, Minnesota.

"My condolences to the shooting victims, their friends, and families. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you, and all who feel the pain of this tragedy." Mark Jenkins, Maplewood, Minnesota.

"My condolences go out to the families of the victims of this horrible tragedy. My heart goes out to you all." Kenneth Sinn, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Rep. Giffords—you are right. We will be mellowing the rhetoric. Let's listen to the Pima County Sheriff." Rick Cardenas, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Like Congresswoman McCollum, I am shocked at this event and want you all to know I am thinking of you. Some good may come from this evil, however, as people are now discussing the role inflammatory speech may play in today's America." Bernice Vetich, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

It is with a heavy heart that I come to the floor today to offer these thoughts on the tragic events of this past Saturday in Tucson that took the lives of Judge John M. Roll, Christina Taylor Green, Dorwin Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Gabe Zimmerman, and Phyllis Schneck and gravely injured Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS and many others.

Just last week my wife Joyce and I had the opportunity to visit with GABBY in Statuary Hall before the ceremonial swearing-in.

As in so many of my other interactions with her, GABBY was gracious, energetic, and willing to offer a lending hand as I got settled.

We took a few photos and talked about ways we would work together in good spirits. Of course, GABBY and I also went back-and-forth about our favorite rivalry, ASU versus U of A.

GABBY takes enormous pride in her job representing the communities and people of the 8th district.

My wife Joyce and I send our thoughts and prayers to Mark during this difficult time. We are deeply appreciative of Mark's generosity in sharing GABBY with us in Washington and Arizona.

It is also important to not forget that these individuals lost their lives or were injured while they were exercising their right to participate and have a say in our nation's republic.

Indeed, they became victims while exercising a fundamental right that has served as the backbone of our nation since its founding—a right our nation's founders sacrificed so dearly for. Just as the victims of this past Saturday's tragedy did as well.

We are stunned by the tragedy, but we remain resolute in our commitment assemble peacefully and engage civilly in the type of discourse that is fundamental to our republic.

Although words may not be sufficient to capture the sorrow and grief we are experiencing, Joyce and I send our thoughts and prayers to GABBY, Mark, Roxanna and John Green, the parents of Christina Taylor Green and the loved ones of Judge Roll, Dorwin Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Gabe Zimmerman, Phyllis Schneck, and the Tucson community.

Our hearts and prayers are with you.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues and the rest of the Congressional community in extending my prayers and support to the victims of the horrible shooting this past Saturday in Tucson, Arizona, and to their families and friends. Our friend and colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, continues to fight for her life. She and 13 others were wounded in this unspeakable tragedy, in which six people were killed, including three retirees, a nine-year old child, a federal judge and a member of Representative GIFFORDS's staff.

During the past two years it has been my pleasure to serve with GABBY GIFFORDS on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She is an intelligent and dedicated public servant. During my term in this body, I benefited from watching and working with GABBY. I know that the House of Representatives, and indeed, the entire country have benefited from her work and that this chamber will feel her absence until she fully recovers and is able to return to the House floor.

This past Saturday was yet another tragic reminder of the prevalence of violence in our society. Our primary concern at this moment must be with the victims and their families and friends. We must help them work through their grief. We must help the injured through their recovery process.

There is no silver lining when six people are murdered. However, if we do not learn from this tragedy, then we will be doomed to repeat it. Mr. Speaker, I would submit that our political rhetoric has become grossly overheated,

and it's time for all of us to take a step back and reflect on the effects of the vitriol.

The philosopher, Voltaire, once wrote, "I detest what you write, but I would give my life to make it possible for you to continue to write." He was articulating a crucial component—perhaps THE crucial component—on which our nation was founded: That no matter how much I may disagree with your opinion, it is essential that you have the right to express it.

But too often, lately, it seems that we cannot merely disagree with one another's opinions or policies. Instead disagreements become personal. Verbal attacks devolve into harsh questions about motives and character. Debates about policies or proposals sink to fear-mongering and rhetorical claims that the fate of our Republic lies in the balance.

Those of us in this chamber, and others in elected office, understand the rhetorical nature of such comments, but can we be absolutely certain that such verbal attacks are not being misconstrued in a culture of increasing anger and a greater acceptance of confrontation?

Absolutely, we must preserve each person's fundamental First Amendment rights, but can we not agree that we ought to disagree in a more agreeable fashion? As elected Representatives, our words certainly do have consequences for the policies and actions we are trying to shape, but it extends well beyond these four walls . . . to the thousands of people who provide us with staff support here in the Capitol and in our home districts . . . for the men and women who are the face of our government, performing essential federal work every day in communities across our nation and especially for the public, which has placed its trust in us.

There are sure to be multiple legislative proposals in response to this week's tragedy, but perhaps the best response is more simple and more personal. Speaker BOEHNER said an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us, and it will take a collective response from all of us to temper our rhetoric and return to a level of discourse that honors the victims of this week's senseless tragedy.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in condemnation of the senseless attack that took place on Saturday, January 8th in Tucson, Arizona targeting Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and other innocent men, women, and children.

The families and friends of those victims who died in the attack—Gabriel Zimmerman, U.S. District Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwin Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, and nine-year-old Christina Taylor Green—are in all of our thoughts and prayers. It is heartbreaking that so many lost their lives as a result of the actions of one highly disturbed individual.

We also hope and pray for the health of GABBY GIFFORDS and fourteen other innocent individuals who were injured in this premeditated and indiscriminate act of violence. I pray that they will gain the strength to recover physically and emotionally from this horrific event.

GABBY GIFFORDS is a warm, kind, and spirited woman and a dedicated and hardworking representative. It is all the more tragic that this violent act occurred as she was fulfilling her most basic duty as a representative—solving government problems for her constituents and listening to their concerns and opinions about federal issues.

I commend the heroes of January 8th. Without the heroic actions of bystanders who subdued the shooter and those who administered first aid to the victims, as well as the first responders and medical personnel who saved victims' lives, the toll of fatalities and injuries surely would have been far worse.

If anything positive could come of this horrifying event, I hope that self-reflection will result in a return to civility in our political discourse. Elected officials, media personalities, and political activists should make a real effort to turn down the temperature in heated rhetoric, carefully considering the actions it could incite, even if unintended, and the public at large must reject the incendiary language that has become too common.

Those who died in Tucson on Saturday will not be forgotten, and justice will be served for the attacker who caused such heartbreak for so many. We all pray for the families of the victims, the recovery of the survivors, and a more civil and peaceful tomorrow.

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, just days ago, our nation was shaken by the brutal act of violence committed against Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and the constituents waiting in line to speak with her.

The shots fired in Tucson claimed the lives of several Americans, from a federal judge with decades of service to our country, to a young child participating in our great democracy for the very first time.

Tragedies like this one tear at the fabric of our democracy, which is woven together by the everyday conversations that take place between ordinary people and those they elect to represent them in government.

What started out as a routine morning in American political life—an elected representative listening to the thoughts and concerns of her community—ended in senseless bloodshed.

As we pay tribute to those who fell victim to this violence, and as we pray for the swift recovery of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, we must also reaffirm ourselves to the work being done that morning before those shots rang out.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS enjoys such respect in this body not only because of her intellect and warmth but also because of her commitment to directly engaging with people. She believed—and every day put into action—that with sincere, hard work we can forge common ground, in our communities and as a nation.

In a few days, when this body reconvenes and we resume the business of moving our nation forward, let us honor Congresswoman GIFFORDS by keeping that sense of common purpose in the forefront of our minds as we work to overcome the many challenges faced by our nation.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, the shooting of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and the killing and wounding of members of her staff and community attending her “Congress on your Corner” event, was a national tragedy.

It is most appropriate that we speak out to share our sadness, sorrow and grief as well as our hopes for healing and recovery.

I am encouraged that GABBY continues to defy the odds and is showing signs of progress. She is truly a survivor, with a strong will to live. I know that she faces a long and difficult path to recover from her injuries, and

I hope that our support—together with the prayers and well wishes offered by the people of Arizona and indeed all of America—will help her and her family now and in the weeks and months ahead.

Even as she copes with her own severe injuries, I am sure that GABBY is thinking of all the others who were killed and injured during the attack on her. Gabe Zimmerman, her director of community outreach, was killed. Two more members of her Congressional staff, Ron Barber and Pam Simon, were injured in the shooting. Congressional staff members help us, to help our constituents, but they often are not recognized or appreciated. Let us all remember that our staffers—and government workers generally—are committed to public service. They work hard, make many sacrifices, and they provide valuable, essential service.

We are thinking also of residents of the Tucson community who attended this event to meet and speak with their elected representative, never sensing that they would be in harm's way.

Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard were all killed in this senseless, brutal attack.

I join my colleagues in expressing condolences to their families, friends and loved ones.

In a matter of seconds, the gunman recklessly and viciously sprayed bullets in all directions. In addition to killing six people and wounding Congresswoman GIFFORDS, he injured thirteen other people. We pray for their full and speedy recovery.

In a democracy, it is not only common but moreover essential that citizens and their representatives freely communicate and exchange ideas, even opposing opinions. Unfortunately, violent events like the shooting in Tucson have a chilling effect on our ability to engage in our civic duties without fear. We must not give in to fear. At the same time, we absolutely must all do whatever is necessary to restore safety and security. We must re-dedicate ourselves to ending violence and promoting peace, and we must take necessary, commonsense steps to reduce the potential for killings like this.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly support the resolution honoring the victims of the Arizona tragedy.

I condemn the senseless act of violence that ended six lives too soon and injured many others, including one of our colleagues, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of Arizona.

Representative GIFFORDS is an indefatigable advocate for her constituents and a strong believer in the value of public service. She has worked day and night to improve her community and help those around her in need. Even when she's had a strong disagreement with a colleague—on either side of the aisle—she was always willing to work with those colleagues again. For her, disagreements do not foreclose cooperation. She truly embodies what it means to be a public servant.

I want to commend the quick and heroic actions of the brave citizens who responded that day. In a frightful situation, when the natural response is to run in fear, Patricia Maisch, Roger Sulzeber, Joseph Zimudie, and Daniel Hernandez, Jr. took actions to help the injured and stop the attack. They risked their lives for

the safety of others, and without their actions, it is likely many more lives may have been lost.

Acts and threats of violence such as these have no place in our society and the voices of the American people will not be silenced or diminished because of these acts.

As we pause to reflect on the tragic events of Saturday, we should make special efforts to remember those whose lives were senselessly taken: Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Taylor Green, Judge John M. Roll, Dorwin Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck. We should remember their families in our prayers—and ask that they be comforted in their grief.

Like so many others, words cannot adequately express my shock and sorrow over this tragedy. My thoughts and prayers are with all the affected families.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, last Saturday our country suffered a terrible blow. In a senseless and despicable act of violence, a crazed gunman attempted to kill one of this body's finest members and our good friend, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, while slaying six others and wounding many more.

GABBY was gunned down while doing the very thing she was elected to do—listening to her constituents and soliciting their feedback. She was participating in a proud tradition of representative democracy, where democratically elected representatives interact with the constituents they represent in Washington.

When the gunman pulled the trigger he was attacking not just a good and decent Member of Congress and her constituents, he was also attacking the freedom-loving people of America who every two years send public servants like GABBY to Washington to handle their interests in the Capitol.

We must not tolerate this violence and the assault it represents on our democratic way of life. Make no mistake; there is no room for violence in our vigorous national debate.

I pray for God's peace for all the victims of this tragic attack and swift healing for all those, especially GABBY, who are still fighting to recover. The House of Representatives is not whole without the smiling face of GABBY and I eagerly await the day when she returns to work on behalf of her constituents. They could ask for no finer person to represent them in Congress.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today on behalf of my district in Orange County to offer my prayers and condolences to all those wounded and killed in the recent and tragic shootings in Tucson, Arizona. I want to honor my colleague and dear friend, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who remains in critical condition and those who lost their lives, Gabriel Zimmerman, Christina Green, John Roll, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwin Stoddard.

GABBY was doing what all Members of Congress must do, interact with their constituents and provide a venue for them to petition their government. It is a sad day in America when the basis of our democracy, the interaction between elected officials and those they represent, is put into jeopardy by those who wish to do us harm.

Those lost on that day were robbed of life too early, like nine-year-old Christina Green, whose life was bookended by tragedy. She was born on September 11, 2001, but strove at such a young age to be engaged in her community. Or the life of GABBY's close aide,

Gabriel Zimmerman, who at 30 years old had made public service and helping those in the Eighth District of Arizona his purpose in life for the last 4 years. Judge John Roll dedicated his life to public service and understood the risks associated with controversial issues. And to remember those that left so many loved ones and memories behind, Dorwan Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, and Phyllis Schneck.

I await the day that we welcome our colleague back into the House chamber and will continue to pray for those still in the care of doctors and those who have passed on.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution before us honoring the victims and heroes of the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, this past weekend.

Today's action is a reflection on the victims of a deeply tragic, singular incident which changed so many lives forever and to renounce the barbaric actions taken by a single individual. We also honor those bystanders and first responders who reaffirmed our faith in humanity by risking their lives to save others.

Today marks a time of healing as we celebrate the lives of those who were lost. GABBY is a colleague and a friend who is known for her civility and willingness to reach out. Her office was just a couple of doors down from mine on the fifth floor of Cannon our freshman year and I was her colleague on the House Science and Technology Committee through the 111th Congress. She is a consummate professional who is dedicated to her constituents and her country.

Our prayers are with her and the other victims as they recover from this horrifying event. As we move forward, we should take strength in the outpouring of support from all corners of our country.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, this weekend, a horrible tragedy befell the city of Tucson, the State of Arizona and the Nation. One of our own, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, was doing her duty as a Member of Congress. She was out in the neighborhood, talking face to face with her constituents about their concerns and their problems. "Congress on Your Corner" was an event she had done before with success and she wanted to start the New Year with an open door to her constituents.

When she arrived at the local Safeway, dressed in a red blazer, black slacks and black pumps, she greeted those in attendance, hugged each of her staff and gave a short speech. Then, constituents began asking questions, getting their photo taken, and asking for help. It was then, only minutes after the event began, that a young man, armed with a semiautomatic handgun with 33 deadly rounds, directly faced GABBY and shot her point blank in the head. But he didn't pause; he kept shooting. With such rapid fire, those waiting in line to speak to GABBY had no chance to escape his wrath.

What happened in Tucson was not just about unspeakable tragedy. It was about heroic actions. When the gunman turned to flee, a brave but wounded bystander grabbed the shooter, as others came to his aid. One courageous older woman, Patricia Maisch, tried to wrestle a second magazine full of another 33 deadly bullets from him to protect others from his indiscriminate gunfire. She began shouting at him, even as she remained in danger. She raised the questions many of us asked when

we heard of his horrible actions: "How could you be so hateful? How could you do this?"

As the paramedics and emergency responders attended to the scene, the true sorrow of the event became clear. Twenty patriotic Americans were shot, many severely. Six of them lost their lives for no reason other than that they participated in the democratic process.

This tragedy has touched our Nation to its very core. The fact that this horrific event would occur during such an open democratic event has chipped away at our innocence as a country. The fact that some would rather turn to bullets instead of words to address differing opinions makes us feel as though our democratic process is under siege.

However, it is my hope that the lives of those six brave souls will not be lost in vain, and that we can become even stronger as a Nation. Our Nation was founded on the premise that the American people have the right to elect their own leaders, to have their voices heard, and have a say in their own government. We fought, and many died, to protect that right. And no one is allowed to take that away from us.

The American democratic process should not be one of anger and hateful words, but of discourse and discussion. After all our country has been through to protect our freedoms, we must maintain respect for one another and understand that the ability to share differing opinions is at the core of what makes our Nation so great.

So it is in the spirit of respect and democracy that I support this resolution. My prayers go out to the families of the victims, all of the survivors, and to my friend GABBY GIFFORDS, for a speedy and full recovery. To those who lost loved ones, words simply cannot express my feelings of sadness at such a devastating loss.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many victims of Saturday's tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, and to voice my hope for a full recovery for each of the survivors, particularly my colleague and friend, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. On behalf of me, my family, my staff, and the constituents of New Mexico's First Congressional District, I express our heartbreak at the attempted assassination, the devastation of so many innocent lives, and the senseless attack on our nation's Democratic process.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims of this senseless tragedy, and especially to the friends and families of Judge John M. Roll, Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwan Stoddard. We are grateful for the heroes who courageously intervened, the first responders and health care professionals and those who continue to assist the survivors in their recovery.

Though she remains in critical condition, I know GABBY, and can attest to her nature as a fearless fighter. We've worked closely together on the House Armed Services Committee as clean energy advocates and as New Democrats. As the only member of Congress with a spouse on active-duty, she is a tireless advocate for military families and is unquestionably one of the most talented Democratic leaders of my generation. With all of that in mind, I am optimistic and hopeful that she will overcome this tragedy. Her recovery is important to our nations' future.

Sadly, Saturday's assassin took advantage of an event which embodies the very essence of public service and the right to assemble without fear. Like GABBY, I hold these kinds of "Congress On Your Corner" events in my district to hear directly from my constituents, whether they agree with me or not. Listening to our constituents is a fundamental duty of each Member of Congress and provides an extraordinary opportunity to talk one-on-one in an inclusive and equitable environment. That our constituents would have to worry about violence as part of that process is unthinkable. We must continue to remain accessible to our constituents while taking appropriate measures going forward to protect their safety.

As we pray for GABBY's recovery and for the families and friends of all of those impacted by Saturday's tragedy, let us honor their legacy by striving to reinforce the spirit of Democracy in which the victims sought to engage in on Saturday in Tucson. Together as a nation, we can have a vigorous debate without compromising the civility and respect for one another's human dignity that is core to our great Nation's principles.

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of my friend and colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who four days ago was the target of a malicious, senseless attack in Tucson, Arizona. In the aftermath of this tragedy, 6 have lost their lives, 12 were wounded, and GABBY is still in the hospital fighting for her life. She is a dear friend, and one of the most sincere, conscientious, and thoughtful members I have had the pleasure of working with.

GABBY has so many friends in Congress and is an outstanding Congresswoman for her district and for the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. She has served the last 2 years as the chairwoman of our Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee and has done a magnificent job overseeing our Nation's space program. The passion that she brings with her is always evident and she has been willing to ask the tough questions and work across the aisle in support of what she believes.

GABBY loves her district and her constituents, and she is always finding a way to work her home state of Arizona into the discussion. I have been to her district with her to support solar energy and to the Cape with her to support the Shuttle flights. Perhaps it hurts even more that this shooting took place at an event that was organized so she could listen to her constituents and discuss how she represents their interests. She was doing her job, being accessible, and listening to the people she represents.

GABBY is a beautiful young lady with a beautiful family, and a stepmother of two young children. It's hard to understand how someone could do something like that. In a moment's time, one person destroyed the lives of so many innocent victims. Events like this remind us of how fragile life can be and how in the blink of an eye, everything can change.

I've been around a long time and have seen too many terrible senseless events; these are times when you feel helpless, and all you can do is pray and come together to display solidarity and support for those who have been affected. I will continue to pray every day for GABBY, her husband Astronaut Mark Kelly, her family, her staff, Judge John Roll, little 9-year old Christina Green, and the families of all the victims in this tragedy.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, last weekend, the world watched as what began as a sunny Saturday morning in southern Arizona ended in tragedy and horror for our Nation. Violence of this kind has no place in America, and our grieving Nation will spare no expense to find out how this tragedy happened and ensure that it can never be repeated.

Last Saturday was a dark day in our Nation's history and a day which I will never forget. My thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her family and her staff. My staff is my family, and I cannot comprehend why anyone could or would hurt a group of honest, hard-working people united in their desire to serve the people of southern Arizona.

I also join the Nation in honoring the lives of the six brave Americans who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence and in offering my support and best wishes for a speedy recovery to all those affected by this tragedy.

GABBY GIFFORDS is a good heart, a great mind, and one of the nicest Members of Congress with whom I have had the honor of serving. When I last saw her, at the airport just hours before the attack, she was going home to do exactly what we all do—what we were elected and what the people of this country expect us to do—working with constituents, listening to their concerns and being responsive to their needs.

Saturday's attack came as a shock to me not just as a member of Congress, but because the violence reached beyond the realm of politics, and took the lives of innocent, ordinary Americans who took time out of their busy lives to participate in our democracy.

As Members of Congress, when we sign up to serve our country we understand there is an inherent risk. But we never imagine our mere presence could so endanger innocent constituents wishing to voice their opinions. An attack at an event of this kind is an attack against that which makes our Nation great and must not be tolerated.

GABBY is famous for her smile that could light up a room and her fearless tenacity to reach across the aisle to find solutions for the problems facing this Nation. In a tight race in a politically diverse district, GABBY was reelected three times because of her ability to find consensus in a sea of chaos and her willingness to fight, not for the left or for the right, but for what's best for the people of Arizona. If we, as a nation, can learn from our mistakes and take something away from this tragedy, let it be that we follow her footsteps and use our office and our government to unite rather than divide our healing Nation.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a dear friend and colleague Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, as well as all of those who lost their lives or were injured during the tragic events of January 8, 2011, in Tucson, Arizona.

Today the House gathers at an incredibly sad moment for our country. The events of January 8, 2011, are reprehensible and truly heartbreaking. I speak today of my close friend and an esteemed colleague in the Blue Dog Coalition, GABBY. Her leadership and compassion for the people she represents is a testament to the meaningful work she has accomplished during her tenure as a United States Representative. The legacy she has created is one of moderate and pragmatic leadership—qualities that are essential to the

people of Arizona she so strongly represents, and to our country as a whole.

In 2009, I had the opportunity to visited GABBY in her district. It was apparent how many folks she has touched with her work in the Arizona State Senate and the House of Representatives. Her passion for public service is truly an example we should all embrace.

I would also like to recognize and honor the victims who lost their lives during this horrible tragedy: Christina Green, Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard and Gabriel Zimmerman, the Congresswoman's aide.

I pray for a speedy recovery to everyone injured during this tragic event and hope for GABBY's quick return to Congress to do what she loves most, represent the people of Arizona's 8th.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I am extremely saddened by the senseless act of violence that occurred in Arizona. My thoughts and prayers go out to my close personal friend, Rep. GIFFORDS, her family and all the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Rep. GIFFORDS is a hard-working, compassionate Member of Congress. This past weekend's event is particularly tragic because she was doing what all Members should be out doing, showing her dedication to her constituents and out listening to folks back home.

During her time in Congress, I have worked with her on various initiatives through the efforts of the New Democrat Coalition. I have always been particularly impressed with her commitment to fiscal responsibility, deficit reduction, and advancing innovation and technology. She is a long-term thinker who has worked to promote initiatives that are important to both her district and the country.

I would like to send my deepest sympathies to the families of Gabe Zimmerman, a committed member of her team in addition to Judge John M. Roll, Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard. These individuals were engaging in the political process in the best way possible, by speaking directly to their representative. The exchange of ideas is critical to our democracy and it's important that Members of Congress continue to provide forums in which to meet with and listen to constituents. I have and will continue to make town halls and listening sessions a priority in western Wisconsin. At this time, we should also take this moment to remember that we can fight hard for the principles in which we believe with civility and consideration without compromising our values or the values of others.

I also want to thank all the first responders, law enforcement and medical personnel whose quick actions helped prevent further loss of life. These individuals provide an invaluable service to all of our communities and I thank them for their dedicated work.

I wish GABBY and all others involved a speedy recovery.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I have come to the well today, not to make a long speech, for my colleagues have spoken so well, but to extend the heartfelt tribute to the affected families on behalf of the people of the first district of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, we must seize this senseless and tragic event as an opportunity for us to reconcile our differences and reduce the political tone in this country. The American people are demanding that we represent them

with civility and a sense of enforcing the Constitution to keep America strong and provide for the general welfare.

I pledge my part in making that happen.

To those families who are living this unspeakable tragedy, we extend our condolences and prayers to your family. And we pray for a speedy recovery for our dear Colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, and the other great Americans who are victims of this tragedy.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, the injured, those who lost their lives and all of their families and loved ones—all of whom remain in our thoughts and prayers following this past Saturday's horrible and tragic event. Having the opportunity to serve with GABBY on the Science and Technology Committee in Congress has truly been a blessing as she embraces the human spirit in all her work.

GABBY is not a weathervane politician—she takes courageous votes that are supported by her keen intellect and engaging personality. Her quick wittedness and joy in providing service through her work as a Representative stands as testimony to us all.

She is one of our Nation's brightest young leaders—intelligent, dedicated, effective and fair.

I wish her and all the other injured victims in this senseless tragedy a quick and speedy recovery.

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise after some of the saddest days I have ever lived through. A friend and a colleague, an exemplary member of this body was gunned down while doing her job. Innocent lives were lost and a Nation grieves for their family and friends.

GABRIELLE is one of the finest public servants I have ever had the privilege of knowing. When GABRIELLE and I first arrived here in the beginning of 2007, it was with a deep pride in our home districts and the commitment that we would do whatever it took to work hard for the people we were so honored to represent. GABRIELLE's passion for her job and her constituents is an inspiration to me and to this Congress. My greatest hope is that she will recover as quickly as possible and come back to join her colleagues who miss her. My wife Gwen and I are praying for her recovery and our thoughts are with her wonderful husband Mark and her wonderful family.

Gwen, my staff and I all grieve for the loss of her Director of Outreach, Gabe Zimmerman and we are praying for the speedy recovery of Ron and Pam, two staffers who are still recovering from gunshot wounds.

In a Politico story this week, Doug Hart, president for the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans said of Gabe, "He just had a heart for people." Politico also reported Gabe told the Tucson Citizen in 2007, "We serve who walks into our office and we don't even ask what party they belong to." In Gabe's memory, let us continue to serve our constituents to the best of our ability, regardless of their political beliefs. And today, let us remember Gabe and all those members of our own staff who come to work every day dedicated to helping the Americans we serve.

I also want to express my deepest condolences to Judge John Roll's family. In the stories that have emerged in recent days, we can see he was a dedicated public servant and a distinguished member of our judicial system.

My thoughts and prayers are also with all the families of GABRIELLE's constituents who were victims in this horrific attack. They were doing what we hope our constituents will do every day. Come to our events and lend us their wisdom and ideas. These civic minded Americans make our jobs possible and we grieve over losing them.

As I think about the event that GABRIELLE hosted on Saturday and the kind of Arizonians who attended her event, I am reminded of the very best in the American people. A young girl born in the depths of tragedy who wanted to make the world better for her classmates and her generation. A husband who's final act was protecting his wife. A passionate advocate for justice who wanted to share his thoughts with his Representative. They were all people who wanted to make a difference in the direction of the country they loved and their attendance at Saturday's event was no less than the dream and vision of our founding fathers.

I don't know whether the heated political rhetoric caused the terrible events on Saturday. We may never know the answer to that question. But surely we can all agree that our politics have been too divisive, our debates too heated and our words too harsh.

In the honor of the victims of Saturday's attack, we must rededicate ourselves to civility. To passionate, but never angry, public debate. To respectful disagreements. To rededicate ourselves to accessibility to the people we represent and to the notion that debate without violence is the cornerstone of our representative democracy.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring Representative GIFFORDS, mourning the victims of this senseless shooting, and lauding the heroism of those who endangered themselves to help those who were injured.

Saturday's horrific shooting in Tucson of Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, members of her staff, a federal judge, and innocent bystanders should never have happened. Representative GIFFORDS was performing the most fundamental duty of a Member of Congress—she was making herself available to her constituents. It is something we all do—and something I strongly believe we must continue to do.

My thoughts are with the victims, their family members and their friends at this time.

I hope that we can learn from this tragedy.

Violence has no place in our democracy. While the details of the shooting are still coming to light, we can all agree that political rhetoric and imagery that condones or encourages violence—whether from activists, party organizations, or politicians—is unacceptable. We can have differences of opinion on policy and still treat each other with humanity.

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who is a courageous leader and fierce ally for her State of Arizona and for all Americans. Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, and her constituents were subjected to a tragic act of violence on January 8, 2011, when a gunman opened fire at a public event for the Congresswoman in Tucson, Arizona. The entire State of Iowa is praying for her recovery, and for the family members and loved ones of every American affected by the Arizona shooting.

Madam Speaker, Congresswoman GIFFORDS and I served on the House Armed

Services Committee and are both members of the Blue Dog Coalition. I know firsthand her commitment to making our Nation better for all Americans. She is a tireless advocate for every man and woman in uniform and their families. Today, we are all praying not only for her recovery, but for her return to Congress.

When Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, and her constituents gathered to participate in one of the most basic American rights in our great Nation—the right to civil discourse—no one expected the day to end tragically. The shooting on January 8, 2011, is a national tragedy and an attack on the right of every American to participate in free and open dialogue with the men and women they elect to represent them in Congress.

I would like to recognize Congresswoman GIFFORDS's staff members who were wounded in the shooting, including Gabe Zimmerman, who lost his life, and the five other Americans who were killed: Christine-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, U.S. District Court Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwin Stoddard. We are all praying for their families and loved ones.

Madam Speaker, today, our hearts are with our friend, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, along with members of her congressional staff and constituents, were senselessly shot while attending a "Congress on Your Corner" event in Tucson. Those killed by the gunman—U.S. District Judge John Roll, Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwin Stoddard—were citizens participating in the democratic process, meeting and speaking with their Member of Congress.

Like everyone else, I was shocked by the news. This kind of deadly violence shakes a community and a nation to its core. The rapid, life-saving action of Tucson's emergency responders and medical professionals and the acts of courage displayed by those at the event do, however, serve to remind us that the kindness of the human spirit can fight back in even the darkest of moments. My thoughts and prayers are with all those in Tucson, in particular the families of those who were injured or killed, and especially with my friend and outstanding colleague in the House, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

In the four years I have served with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, she has been a stalwart supporter of her district, her State and America's interests at home and abroad. It is impossible not to admire her commitment to the job of Representative and the passion with which she pursues her interests and policy agenda. I am proud to serve on the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, where GABBY is an influential advocate for renewable energy. She is a positive, moderate, thoughtful voice in our Caucus, and it is my greatest hope that she will recover from this terrible tragedy and return as soon as possible to her job. We certainly need her and miss her.

I don't believe that I have ever seen her without a smile on her face, which is quite a feat for someone working on Capitol Hill. She is a wonderful, upbeat and remarkable person.

It is imperative that we begin to learn everything we can from what happened in Tucson. If we do not take what measures we can to prevent such violence from occurring in the fu-

ture, we not only do a disservice to those who were harmed and killed on Saturday, but we betray our commitment to the participatory principles on which our democracy, which must serve as a political and social example to other nations, was founded. We should re-examine how we treat and care for those suffering mentally in our country. We must thoroughly discuss how individuals become eligible to purchase automatic weapons. And we must learn to communicate about our differences in ways that are more thoughtful and civil and that better promote aspiration to those qualities in all who hear or read our words.

I continue to hope and pray for a full recovery for Congresswoman GIFFORDS and the other injured victims and for a healing within for all those hurt internally by Saturday's events. Our Nation must continue to grow and become stronger in the face of this tragedy.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I solemnly rise in support of this resolution.

We come together today in tribute to Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and all of the innocent victims of a deranged gunman's actions in Tucson, Arizona.

This past weekend, our Nation witnessed a horrifying and tragic act of violence that took the lives of six, and left many others wounded, including our friend and colleague, GABBY.

GABBY is one of my closest friends and my thoughts and prayers are with her husband Mark, GABBY's parents, and their family as they struggle to get through this unimaginable tragedy.

I pray for her full recovery and the recovery of the other victims of this horrific act of senseless violence. I also pray for the Tucson community and for our Nation.

While she and the others wounded in this attack struggle to recover, we pause to honor those we have lost.

They were Americans from every walk of life, and from every season in the journey of life. They died exercising freedoms that make this country so special—the freedom to petition their government and speak freely to their elected representatives.

They include:

Christina Taylor Green, a 9-year-old girl just elected to her student council who wanted to see her Congresswoman in action;

A Federal judge—John McCarthy Roll—who stopped by to thank his colleague for working with him on immigration matters;

Gabe Zimmerman, a 30-year-old congressional caseworker who brought compassion to his community outreach work; and

Three additional victims who were vibrant and active retirees like so many in my home district in South Florida—Phyllis Schneck, 79, Dorwan Stoddard, 76, and Dorothy Morris, 76.

Now, anyone who knows GABBY, knows that she is one of the most kind, thoughtful, and optimistic people you will meet. She has the sunniest disposition and sees the good in everyone—even people who most wouldn't. So it is particularly unbelievable that she would be the target of a deranged individual with anti-government views. When I heard the news, I thought, "Not GABBY?"

She is also deeply committed to the principles of public discourse and vibrant democracy that brought her face to face with her constituents on Saturday. She simply represents the very best of what a public servant should be.

So I would be misleading you if I said I understand why this happened, I do not. Perhaps it is impossible to make sense of a mind so full of hate, so deranged and so broken.

And I cannot tell you with any certainty that the acrimony and political vitriol that are so prevalent in our society today contributed to spurring this madman. But I fear that his deep-seated distrust of our government contributed to his actions.

We must move forward—but how? How do we honor the victims of this tragedy? How do we protect our society from such hatred?

I have looked in my own heart, and what I know is that we need each other right now. Though our hearts are heavy, we must be steadfast in our determination to uphold the American spirit and the principles of our democracy for which GABBY has so vigorously fought.

I believe we should use this moment to remind each other, remind all Americans and remind the world that the strength of our convictions, the strength of our democracy, comes from our unity of purpose.

Yes, as public servants and passionate advocates we have, and we will, disagree on policies of the day, sometimes vigorously. That is as it should be.

But I have no doubt that every person in this chamber loves our country, staunchly defends our Constitution, and brings to this body a desire to see a more perfect union. Let us show the world the truth of these words.

I can say it no better than the words that conclude our Declaration of Independence. In this sacred document, our founding fathers call for us to “mutually pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes, our sacred Honor.”

Indeed—if we are not joined in the united effort to strengthen our democracy—then we risk allowing those that hate all that we stand for, rip us asunder.

As Speaker BOEHNER so eloquently said, “An attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve.” So we must pledge to come together, to work together, and to be together.

Let us rededicate ourselves to doing so with a new tone of civility in our public discourse. Let us show the world that there is so much more that unites us than divides us.

And when we do disagree, we know that we solve those differences not with violence, but with words and with our vote.

We are united in the pursuit so eloquently put by President Abraham Lincoln, “that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

I finish by noting that GABBY has always exemplified the Jewish ideal of *tikkun olam*—repairing and healing the world. May we all come together in this beautiful message of healing—for our wounded world, our beloved friend, and all the victims of this tragedy.

May the strength with which GABBY has healed the world, and the spirit of *tikkun olam* in turn heal her, the other wounded, and the families of those who lost loved ones.

Madam Speaker, it is with a somber heart that I rise to voice my strong support for H. Res. 32.

This resolution condemns the horrific attack that took place in Tucson this past weekend, honors the memory of all those who lost their lives in the attack, and expresses hope for a complete recovery for all those wounded in the attack, including our friend and colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Today—we recognize and honor the service of Representative GIFFORDS, a dedicated public servant and truly exceptional Member of Congress.

We also recognize the bravery of those heroes and first responders, who saved lives and prevented the deranged gunman from doing further damage.

The ability to resolve problems and conflicts in a non-violent manner is a bedrock value of our system of government.

Saturday’s cowardly attack is an assault on the very principles that we as Americans hold dear.

I urge my colleagues to cast a vote to condemn hatred, and honor those innocent individuals who were impacted by this heinous act of violence.

The thoughts and prayers of Barbara and I go out to the families of those who lost their lives in this terrible tragedy, and we continue to pray for a full recovery for Representative GIFFORDS and all other victims.

Madam Speaker, I rise to add some additional remarks to my earlier statement in support of H. Res. 32.

In this time of grieving for all of us, it is important we take this moment to recognize and honor the six individuals who lost their lives in this heinous crime.

Christina Taylor Green was a 9-year-old child, recently elected to the student council at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

Dorothy Morris, 76, was married to her husband George for over 50 years. George was also at the shooting and courageously tried to shield his wife from the attack.

John Roll, 63, had an outstanding legal career, culminating in his service as Chief Judge for the District of Arizona. He and his wife Maureen had three children and five grandchildren.

Phyllis Schneck, 79, a New Jersey native, was spending the winter in Arizona. She was a church volunteer and a proud mother of three, and grandmother of seven.

Dorwan Stoddard, 76, was also a church volunteer and also shielded his wife, Mary, during the attack.

Gabriel Zimmerman, 30, was engaged to be married and was known throughout the community as a man of great character for his work in Representative GIFFORDS’ office.

Let us stand together to honor the lives of these individuals, and offer our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones they leave behind.

I urge my colleagues to reaffirm our commitment to a democracy in which all peoples can participate without intimidation or fear of violence, and support today’s resolution.

Again, the thoughts and prayers of Barbara and I go out to the victims and families impacted by this tragedy, and we continue to pray for a swift recovery for Representative GIFFORDS and all others wounded in this terrible tragedy.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in supporting the Resolution before us today, and to express my deepest condolences for the families of those killed in the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8. I also offer my prayers for a speedy and full recovery to my friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, as well as to all those wounded in the attack.

This past Saturday was a dark day for this chamber and our nation. GABBY GIFFORDS is

one of the hardest-working members of this House, and has proven herself to be an energetic representative of her district’s interests and a thoughtful stateswoman. She is loved and admired by her colleagues and her constituents in the Eighth District of Arizona, who are fortunate and grateful that she survived this terrible attack.

But there are six others who will not be returning to their families and friends as a result of this tragedy, and I know GABBY would want the focus to be on them. One of the six, GABBY’s Outreach Director Gabriel Zimmerman, was a Federal employee killed while helping GABBY better represent her constituents.

Madam Speaker, I grieve for our nation when a 9-year-old girl seeking to meet her Congresswoman becomes a target for murder. I fervently hope that all Americans, especially those of us honored with the public trust, view this tragedy as a moment to take personal responsibility for building a safer, more civil and better future.

We are praying for you, GABBY, and for the families of all those affected by this senseless tragedy.

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff, and all the victims of the Tucson tragedy.

On January 8, Representative GIFFORDS was hosting an event to simply engage with her constituents. At that event, a man fired shots at the Congresswoman, her staff, and the assembled crowd.

Due to this senseless act, six people are dead and fourteen others are injured, including the Congresswoman, who remains in critical condition.

I have had the pleasure to serve on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, and it has been nothing less than an honor to work with her. Her passion and commitment to her constituents and her country is unyielding, and she has always approached her work in Congress with the attention and respect that it deserves. I was shocked and saddened to hear of this attack.

On Saturday morning, six people attended an event held by their local representative, and for this, they lost their lives. In a democratic country that symbolizes hope and freedom for so many, it is difficult to witness and impossible to understand this hateful act.

My thoughts and prayers, along with those of all Americans, go out to the Giffords’ family, the families of the Congresswoman’s staff, and all those impacted by this tragedy.

I would also like to thank that day’s heroes for their quick reactions that undoubtedly saved many lives. The actions of these individuals and the outpouring of support from around the country give us all strength during this difficult time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to honor those who died and were wounded in Tucson, Arizona this past Saturday. The senseless rampage took the lives of six remarkable people and forever altered the lives of their families, 13 other people who were wounded, and each of their families. This tragedy has touched the soul of our Nation and we will not forget it.

Like my colleagues and Americans throughout our country, I am deeply saddened and

disturbed by the events that took place as our colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, conducted her outdoor constituent town meeting in Tucson. To the families of those who died I offer my heartfelt condolences. And for my colleague, GABBY, as we call her, and her family, and to the other victims and their families, I offer my prayers as they receive urgent medical treatment and begin their recovery.

I share in the comments that so many of my colleagues have already made about GABBY. She has worked hard and contributed much. She is a highly respected colleague and a courageous representative for Arizona and our country. The attack on Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff and constituents is deplorable and represents an attack on all Americans.

I also join my colleagues in saluting the heroism of four men and women who subdued the shooter and attended to GABBY immediately after she was shot. These men and women truly made a difference on that Saturday. They deserve our praise and admiration.

Madam Speaker, the responsibility for this tragedy lies with the shooter, someone who had earlier been identified as needing mental health care and who should never have been able to obtain a gun. Thankfully, he is in custody and his fate is now in the hands of our law enforcement and judicial system.

But while he will be tried for his act, this attack has raised in all of us a deep and gnawing question that must be unanswered. How can we improve ourselves after this tragedy?

Everyone who meets Congresswoman GIFFORDS knows she is not an angry woman. She has sought to balance the diverse interests of her district while doing what she believes to be in the best interest of our country. Yet she was attacked, vilified and denounced by extreme political factions who sought to demonize her for what she believed as a member of Congress.

We cannot undo the events of Saturday, January 8, but we can and should commit ourselves to a more responsible level of political discourse in America. I hope we can all learn from the events in Tucson, that in the name of GABBY and all of the victims of this deadly shooting, we can commit ourselves to strengthen our Nation, not fight each other, to be able to disagree with each other without hating or demonizing one another for it.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, her constituents, and everyone touched by the tragedy that unfolded on Saturday in Tucson.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32.

I am pleased that Members of the House of Representatives came together today to speak with a unified voice in both condemning this heinous attack, and expressing our condolences to the friends and families of all the innocent victims that were killed or wounded due to this horrific act of violence.

This resolution reaffirms the democratic principles that Congresswoman GIFFORDS herself espoused when she read the First Amendment of the Constitution during the opening week of the 112th Congress—the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

It is critical that we send a message that threats of violence and intimidation will not

prevent Americans from participating in the democratic process.

It is my hope to once again work alongside my colleague, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, as we seek to find solutions to problems that we face as a nation.

May God bless the victims of this tragedy, their families and all Americans.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32 to honor the victims of the senseless act of violence that took place in Tucson on Saturday.

Six members of the Arizona community lost their lives and one of our own, GABBY GIFFORDS, has been gravely injured. It's hard to find the words to describe the deep sorrow we all feel for the families and friends of the shooter's victims.

His actions have shown us human behavior at its darkest, but the heroes of the day represent our society at its best. The innocent bystanders quickly rallied to curtail the gunman and perform triage on the victims. The American people are humbled by the bravery of those who put themselves in harm's way and grateful for the talented first responders and medical professionals who have compassionately cared for the wounded.

As we've all come to know, GABBY is a fighter. With the help of the thoughts and prayers of millions of Americans who are wishing for her speedy recovery, GABBY has beat the odds and has thus far made a remarkable turn for the better. We should all be inspired by GABBY's strength.

Madam Speaker, we cannot forget that this tragedy occurred as GABBY was performing her most fundamental duty as an elected representative: listening to the people. This attack is quite literally an assault on the very democratic values which we seek everyday to uphold in this Chamber. As we struggle with how to handle the aftermath of this tragedy, let us reflect on the values that make our country great.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, my heart goes out to all of the victims of the terrible tragedy—those that were killed or injured, their families and the entire Tucson community. I extend my condolences to all of the members of the Arizona delegation.

My thoughts and prayers are with GABBY. I know she is a fighter. I recall our trip together to the Middle East. We met with the presidents of Israel, Lebanon and Syria before we traveled to Iraq, where we walked down the streets of Baghdad together. I was so impressed by her courage and commitment to the troops on the frontline.

It is unthinkable to me that GABBY was safer in Baghdad than here in her own country. Every American has a right to express their opinion on whatever issue they choose, but there is no place in our society for this kind of hatred and violence. No one should have to think twice about their safety when they go to speak to their Congressman or attend a town hall meeting. This has been an attack not only on GABBY, her staff and her innocent constituents, but the democratic process itself.

With every negative, we should put forth our best effort to find a positive. It is my hope that this horrific tragedy will bring our country and our Congress together. Our forefathers created a great system of government. Unfortunately, I don't think the spiteful partisanship of today is what they had in mind. We must be tolerant of other views—to tone down the ill-

natured rhetoric—and discuss our opinions respectfully. The negative and personal attacks against one other must stop.

I hope that GABBY makes a speedy recovery and can soon return to this floor where she will continue to be an example of courtesy and civility to us all. I yield the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the people of New York's 11th congressional district to offer my thoughts and prayers to Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff, constituents, and all those affected by this tragic shooting. I am truly shocked, horrified and deeply saddened by this senseless act of violence. I take time to reflect on those who lost their lives, including a Federal judge, a 9-year-old girl, and one of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff. I pray for a swift recovery for the wounded and offer my heartfelt thanks to those who rushed in to offer aid.

I consider GABBY, as she is affectionately called, to be a wonderful colleague whom I have the pleasure of serving alongside on important issues such as immigration reform. She has demonstrated exemplary leadership and is a very well respected Member of the House of Representatives.

While we do not know the motive, we do know that the time has come for us to tone down our rhetoric and partisanship. We are responsible for our words and must respect those who hold different points of view. Our constituents and the world at large should see us as examples of civility, peaceful debate and democracy. Regardless of one's political affiliation, we must learn to respectfully agree to disagree. There are several issues before Congress that would benefit all Americans and many people overseas but often times have been marginalized by partisanship. Our constituents expect us to work for them and not allow politics to get in the way of governing.

Finally, this shooting has many of us thinking about the security and safety of our constituents when we are back home holding town hall meetings, meeting with constituents and doing the people's work. Many people die or are wounded daily from gun violence and many suffer from mental illnesses that are either not properly diagnosed or treated. This tragedy provides the opportunity to further discuss mental health and gun control legislation.

Madam Speaker, let us, as Members of Congress, reaffirm our commitment to work on behalf of our constituents—those who sent us here to represent their interest. Let us do our part to build a better Nation and world.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I join our colleagues today in offering my condolences to the victims and families of last weekend's shooting in Tucson, Arizona. They are in our thoughts and prayers during this extremely difficult time. Our friend Congresswoman GIFFORDS remains in the hospital, and we are hopeful that her recovery will continue to progress and that she will be back here on the House floor in the near future.

The passage of a few days has done little to make this attack any more comprehensible. As much as anything, it is a chilling reminder of the fragile nature of our lives. It gives us all pause that GABRIELLE was hurt doing the same things that we do every day as part of representing our constituents, that staff members were killed and injured as part of their service, and that in a public setting such as this we cannot absolutely guarantee anyone's safety.

As I said immediately after the event, without drawing conclusions about what happened here, I hope that as a country we agree to tone down the volume and animosity that has become so much a part of our political discourse. We can disagree without being enemies.

Madam Speaker, contrary to popular belief, most, if not all of us, ran for office because we want to help people—because we believe we have something to offer through public service. That is certainly true for GABRIELLE. Through our grief, despite the potential risks, I think we still all agree that this work is worth doing, that we can and do make a difference, and that with GABRIELLE as our example, we must push ahead as a country, as a society, to help each other the best that we can.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble.

The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, and notwithstanding the requirement of clause 11(a)(1)(C) of rule X, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. THORNBERRY, Texas;  
Mrs. MYRICK, North Carolina;  
Mr. MILLER, Florida;  
Mr. CONAWAY, Texas;  
Mr. KING, New York;  
Mr. LOBIONDO, New Jersey;  
Mr. NUNES, California;  
Mr. WESTMORELAND, Georgia;  
Mrs. BACHMANN, Minnesota;  
Mr. ROONEY, Florida;  
Mr. HECK, Nevada.

There was no objection.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 p.m.), pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 and pursuant to House Resolution 32, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at 2 p.m., out of respect for the victims of the attack in Tucson, Arizona.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

64. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Report to Congress on Head Start Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2008", pursuant to Section 641(e) of the Head Start Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

65. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Alaska: Adequacy of Alaska Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Permit Program [EPA-R10-RCRA-2010-0953; FRL-9247-6] received January 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

66. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Testing of Certain High Production Volume Chemicals; Second Group of Chemicals [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2007-0531; FRL-8846-9] (RIN: 2070-AD16) received January 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

67. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to Rules and Regulations for Control of Air Pollution; Permitting of Grandfathered and Electing Electric Generating Facilities [EPA-R06-OAR-2005-TX-0031; FRL-9248-9] received January 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

68. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2010 annual report on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, pursuant to Public Law 106-309, section 304; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

69. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a report entitled "Whistleblower Protections for Federal Employees", pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

70. A letter from the Director, Office of Special Council, transmitting the Office's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2010; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

71. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the Inspector General's semi-annual report to Congress for the reporting period April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

72. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska [Dock- et No. 101006495-0498-01] (RIN: 0648-BA31) received January 6, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

73. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Guidelines for Awarding Clean Water Act Section 319 Base Grants to Indian Tribes [EPA-HQ-OW-2011-XXXX; FRL-9247-8] received January 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California (for himself, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. AMASH, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BERG, Ms. BERKLEY, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BUCHSHON, Ms. BUEKLE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CANSECO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. COBLE, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CRAVACK, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DENT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DOLD, Mr. DREIER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FOX, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GERALACH, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GOWDY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. GUNTA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HALL, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HERGER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HURT, Mr. ISSA, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. JONES, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LONG, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MACK, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MICA, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. NUNES, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. REED, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky,