

And if ever I have a son,
I wish he could be like this one!
One of Alabama's bravest of all ones!
For Heaven so awaits,
for such men of courage and faith,
all so dressed all in green!
Because, he's EOD and as bad as can be!
And his name is Johnny!

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn those who were killed in Newtown, Connecticut last Friday, and begin the urgent work of stopping tragedies like this from ever happening again.

Let us be clear—there can be no better tribute to the innocent children and educators who were killed in Newtown than to finally address the out-of-control gun violence that kills tens of thousands of Americans every year.

In answering the call, Congress must look to enact a comprehensive and commonsense reform to our nation's gun laws, and renew our commitment to a mental health system that has been neglected for far too long.

We can begin by taking the most dangerous and deadly weapons off our streets. That means we must do more than simply reinstate the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994. We must strengthen that law by including language that retroactively applies to weapons already in possession, so that law enforcement can finally remove all assault weapons from our communities.

These weapons serve no purpose other than to kill human beings. Our colleague, Senator JOE MANCHIN, today said the following: "I just came with my family from deer hunting. I've never had more than three shells in a clip. Sometimes you don't get more than one shot anyway. It's time to get beyond rhetoric, it's time to sit down and move in a responsible way." He continued to say that limiting the size of a gun magazine to even 10 bullets should be on the table when it comes to reforming our laws and ending gun violence. I couldn't agree more, and believe that no weapon that is designed with the primary intent to kill people should be out on our streets.

This also means that this Congress must look at the types of bullets that are sold today. The perpetrator who murdered more than 20 innocent children took their lives with bullets that were designed to break up inside a victim's body and inflict the maximum amount of damage to internal organs, bones and tissue. There is no legal activity in our country that requires the use of such deadly bullets. They should be included under any renewal of an Assault Weapons Ban.

In addition to removing the most deadly weapons from our streets, we must also close the so-called "fire sale loophole" and "gun show loophole"—two products of a powerful gun lobby that must be brought to heel. Because of these loopholes, more than 40 percent of all guns sold in the United States are sold without the buyer undergoing a federal background check.

We require anyone who wishes to drive a car to prove that they can safely operate a vehicle, yet when it comes to buying a gun, al-

most half all buyers do not have to prove they will safely operate such deadly weapons. In a country of 315 million people, there are almost 280 million guns owned. Of those 280 million guns, almost 112 million of them will have been purchased without a background check. Were they purchased by law-abiding citizens or by troubled individuals who may endanger lives? Because of irresponsible legal loopholes, we simply do not know.

No more. It is time that we require anyone in the United States wishing to purchase a gun to pass a federal background check. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 263, the "Fire Sale Loophole Closing Act" and H.R. 1781, the "Fix Gun Checks Act", and urge the Leadership of this Congress to bring both bills to the floor for a vote.

Finally, our work is not complete unless we improve our nation's mental health system. For years, experts have known how to improve our mental health care system, but a lack of political will has led to its continual decay.

Such failure has a very real impact on the health and well being of thousands of our fellow citizens everyday. Instead of accessing the care they need, they are often left on their own to deal with illnesses that they have little power to control. Place these troubled individuals in the vicinity of a deadly weapon, instead of the care of a mental health care provider, and tragedy can result.

If we are to succeed in our efforts to prevent more gun violence tragedies then an improved mental health care system is part of the solution.

I believe we must respond by drastically improving our community-based mental health services—including mobile crisis services, assertive community treatment, peer supports and supportive housing. These important mental health programs are in short supply all across our nation, which means that thousands of our friends and neighbors who desperately need help are stranded with nowhere to turn.

While no legislation can undo the terror that was done in Newtown, Connecticut, our nation has a moral obligation to act with the utmost urgency to reduce gun violence and save innocent lives. It is long past time to get to work, and I am ready to begin that work today.

"FOLLOW ME"—IN HONOR OF RET. SPC. JIM MAYER, THE UNITED STATES ARMY, THE MILKSHAKE MAN, AND HIS AID AND COMFORT TO OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Ret. Spc. Jim Mayer and all of the thousands of Disabled American Veterans out across America who are making a difference in the lives of our newly returning wounded warriors. He is a former native of Missouri, who lost both of his legs when he stepped on a mine two months in his first tour in Vietnam. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell.

FOLLOW ME

Follow Me . . .

I'll walk with You . . .
Follow me in all I do . . .
For I was once just like you . . .
A young man, who went off to war . . .
All for my Country Tis Thee, with such burdens bore . . .
So strong and bold, and so self assured . . .
So dashing there, all in uniform . . .
Follow me, I'll lead the way . . .
to somehow help you move on this day . . .
As I bow down my head, and for you I now so pray . . .
For I was once like you, just moments away from my grave . . .
As I too, remember that fateful morning as I awoke . . .
While, against all odds there seemed no hope!
As I so too, had such tears in my eyes as invoked!
And too so wondered, so wondered how I would cope!
When, all that I had so left . . . was but only hope!
Follow me, they call me The Milkshake Man!
For I have walked that walk!
And I know you can!
All in your shoes, as I so too have had all of those same such thoughts!
As I so understand, how much you have to gain!
And how much so too you have lost, all in your pain!
So don't give up! And don't give in!
Let go of such thoughts, my friend!
Lift up your head, and raise that chin!
Follow me, for this is how your first steps begin!
So begins with you my friend . . .
For you will learn to walk again . . .
Or somehow replace your arms, your hands, your eyes my friend . . .
All with that heart which beats with in!
For you can live or you can die?
Or you can so feel so very sorry for yourself, with tear in eye . . .
Or with each new step, you can but let your fine soul rise!
And oh yes, you will have many . . . many . . . dark days ahead . . .
Follow Me, take my hand . . . and listen to what my life has said!
Walk with me, listen to your heart instead!
For your fine Life is worth living, and you're not dead!
Live for all of your Brothers and Sisters, who so died for you instead!
For them, feel the breeze on your face . . .
And at night take them with you to bed!
Follow me, there's so much more to be said!
For my Son, my Daughter . . . I was once like you . . .
With all of that anger and hate inside of me, and such self doubt too!
For I know where you are going, and I know where you have been!
And oh yes, I know that its not fair . . . but these are war's deadly sins!
All in what it can so do, to such magnificent women and men . . .
For I was once like you, right on that edge!
All between life and death!
Follow me, and I promise you . . . your fine life will be blessed!
As you Bless Our World, with all of your gifts . . .
As you so teach us all, that hope and faith are alive and still exists!
And that your fine life, is one that is so worth to living this!
For what you give, is what you get!
For the best is still yet to come, as so is yet!
Follow me, and yes it will be hard!
For now it's time, to do your part!
Lead my Son, lead my Daughter . . . lead but with your great heart!

Rise Up . . . Rise Up my Son . . . my Daughter,
 into now such a fine work of art!
 Follow me, and take my hand . . .
 As all of your great pain, I do now so understand!
 For up in Heaven you need not arms or legs
 . . . nor eyes so made!
 And that's where we will all so meet again,
 on one fine day . . .
 Listen to these words I say, and you will find
 your way!
 As over this hospital bed, I now so stand . . .
 With tear in eye . . .
 Looking at you, finding it so hard not to
 cry . . .
 As these words I will say, "Follow Me . . .
 and Take My Hand!"
 Walk with me, and one day because of your
 faith and courage you will stand!
 And I will be the one, following you my
 friend!

COSPONSORSHIP OF H. RES. 832

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to my colleague, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, for joining as a cosponsor of my resolution, H. Res. 832, observing the 100th birthday of civil rights icon Rosa Parks and commemorating her legacy. Due to an error by my staff, Mr. PETERS was not added as an original cosponsor of the resolution.

"I'M YOUR CAPTAIN"—IN HONOR
 OF CAPTAIN ATOINE BATES, 1ST
 BATTALION 5TH MARINES, THE
 UNITED STATES MARINES

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American Son from Ohio, Captain Atoine Bates of The United States Marine Corps. Captain Bates, while out on patrol with his men on June 26, 2011 in Sangin

in Afghanistan, almost lost his life in a IED explosion. He lost his leg and sustained numerous other life threatened injuries at the time. Captain Bates has always been a leader. Already, in such a short time he's made a great recovery over at Walter Reed. His example to our nation and to his men inspire us all. He plans to stay in the Marines, for he was born to be a United States Marine. Families are the key component to recovery, and his has been there for him from the very beginning. His father like many other families has stopped what he was doing to be with him every step of the way. I submit this poem penned in honor and his recovery by Albert Caswell.

I'M YOUR CAPTAIN

I'm . . .
 I'm your Captain . . .
 Follow me . . .
 I will lead!
 For we all so proudly wear those most magnificent shades of green!
 For we all are The United States Marines!
 One of the greatest things,
 that this country has ever seen!
 Men and Women,
 of honor bright . . .
 Who so go off to war to win that battle,
 to win that fight!
 All for God and Country,
 are but our burdens bore . . .
 As we all so march off out into that darkness
 for sure!
 For we all so live and so die,
 for something far much more greater and do
 not ask why!
 While, marching out into that face of hell as
 our colors fly . . .
 For where you go men,
 will go I!
 Out in front,
 into that face of death as upon each other we
 so rely!
 As Brothers In Arms,
 for each other we are all so willing to die!
 All in that name of freedom,
 we all so wear that uniform to reach new
 heights!
 As one,
 together we all so bond!
 As brave hearts we move out and move on!
 To so soar!
 For We Are All The United States Marine
 Corps!
 Follow me,
 and I will lead!
 So willingly for you Marine,
 I will die and I will bleed!
 So proudly,
 all in those Magnificent Shades of Green!

As it was out on that fateful day!
 While, on patrol . . .
 when an IED explosion almost took your fine
 life away . . .
 Right there on that edge of death,
 as when your fine heart so sung and began to
 crest!
 As you so pledged to yourself near death,
 to get up and run again no less!
 Because,
 pity is not where your friend!
 And Faith and Courage,
 are what you are so armed with my son!
 And as we so listen to your fine heart so very
 deep down within!
 As with each new step,
 your recovery has so gained so much then!
 For Captain Bates, you've got a life to so
 live . . .
 And its where you are going,
 not where you've been!
 And Marine you were so born to lead!
 And Captain Bates,
 your fine heart will not so stop . . . nor so
 heed!
 Because,
 failure is not an option for this here United
 States Marine!
 As You So Teach Us . . .
 So Reach Us . . .
 and in every way To So Beseech Us!
 For you are but an American Hero,
 A Leader . . . one of a special breed!
 For you are a United States Marine!
 I am your Captain . . .
 you are my women and my men!
 Where you go,
 I will go time and again!
 For I will always have your back against the
 wind!
 Because, I'd rather die with you . . .
 than live without!
 All In That Fight,
 I am with you each and every step of the way
 no doubt!
 Because, Moments are all that we so have!
 To Make A Difference!
 To Grab Hearts!
 I'm your Captain!
 Follow Me!
 I will lead!
 All in my Most Magnificent Shades of Green!
 Because,
 you Captain Bates were but born to lead!
 And you so give to your Brothers and Sisters
 In Arms in the battle all they need!
 Oooh Rah Jar Head,
 for you are fine United States Marine!
 I'm your Captain let me lead!