

These articles remind me of a conversation a few years ago with a caring grade school teacher from my own district who became quite frustrated with the local school system's inability to help her manage the behavior of a child in her elementary classroom. The child, several times a day, became uncontrollable, moving about the classroom, throwing tantrums, screaming loudly, often falling to the floor, thus causing great confusion in the class. Despite the teacher's repeated attempts to help the child, it became obvious professional help was needed. A complicating factor became family members who were in denial that anything out of the ordinary was actually occurring with the child, despite the constant disruption, acting out, anger, and anti-social behavior the child was demonstrating. After repeated attempts that took three years, and let me emphasize three years, the teacher was able to have the child referred to behavioral specialists and placed in a more appropriate learning environment. That situation alone made me wonder about the manner in which we as a society make help available to children who exhibit destructive behaviors that are harmful to themselves and potentially to others.

Mr. Speaker, as a society, we seem to lack the methods to identify troubled youth and put them on a proper path to healing, if healing is possible. Too often, a child is left floundering due to our collective inability to help them find a constructive path forward. For example, many of our local boards of education often are not properly equipped to identify and assist children who are uncivil or who are completely alienated from their surroundings. Some families, too, seem unaware of their child's behaviors as unusual or potentially destructive. As the article I inserted in the RECORD yesterday reports, some parents are so overwhelmed in caring for children with special behavioral conditions, they simply don't know what else to do. Then again, too often there is no one to call to help.

Through the Commission President Obama proposed be formed to address the conditions that led to Newtown's tragedy, surely that Commission should invite a cross section of Americans to share their knowledge about what led to the mass killings that have harmed so many in our nation over the past decade, and what we must do as a society to prevent future tragedies. We can all envision a future where the incredible intelligence and goodwill of the citizens of our nation can lead us to a better day if we provide a forum to listen carefully to the voices among us who grapple with these challenges daily.

[From USA Today, December 17, 2012]

A BOY LOST IN THE SHADOWS

(By Donna Leinwand Leger and Yamiche Alcindor)

SANDY HOOK, CONN. Adam Lanza left only the faintest impression on classmates, neighbors and the people of Newtown before he killed his mother and shot his way into Sandy Hook Elementary, where he killed 20 children and six teachers before turning the gun on himself.

Lanza, 20, skulked through the hallways of Newtown High School in over-sized button-down shirts, eyes perpetually downcast. His name appears a few times on the honor roll published in the weekly Newtown Bee, but his picture is absent from The Newtown Nighthawk yearbook.

"He was very withdrawn," said Tracy Dunn, 20, who graduated from Newtown High School in 2010, Lanza's class.

Dunn, a junior at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, said she never saw him talk with anyone or hang out with friends. He spent time with computers and cameras in the technology room and belonged to the Tech Club.

"He would always have his head down walking to class with his briefcase—kind of scurrying," she said. "He never sat down or said anything to kids at this locker. He was just there in the background."

Andrew Lapple, who sat next to Lanza in homeroom their senior year at Newtown High, told the Hartford Courant that Lanza "never really talked at all" and walked the corridors at school clutching his laptop.

"He walked down the halls, against the wall almost like he was afraid of people," Lapple said. "He was definitely kind of strange, but you'd never think he'd do something like this."

Lanza grew up in Sandy Hook in a sprawling colonial house with his parents, Nancy and Peter, and an older brother, Ryan, 24. His parents divorced in 2009 after a long separation, and his father has remarried. Family friends and relatives say much of his education was home schooling by his mother.

He attended Reed Intermediate School for sixth grade and appears in a 2003 yearbook photo. In the 2005 yearbook for Newtown Middle School, he's listed with the seventh grade without a picture under "camera shy," but he isn't listed in the eighth-grade class the next year. His name surfaces at Newtown High School in 2008 as a sophomore.

Marsha Moskowitz of Sandy Hook drove the school bus that took Lanza to Newtown Middle. She remembers him as "quiet, shy and reserved."

His mother clashed with school officials and eventually removed Adam from public school and home-schooled him, her former sister-in-law, Marsha Lanza of Chicago, told a CBS News affiliate.

Lanza had trouble with her youngest son for years, and her friend Louise Tambascio, owner of My Place Pizza & Restaurant. He was diagnosed with a disorder on the autism spectrum called Asperger syndrome, she said. Psychologist Elizabeth Laugeson, an assistant clinical professor at the University of California-Los Angeles, had no knowledge of Adam Lanza's case but said, "There really is no clear association between Asperger's and violent behavior."

Nancy Lanza stopped into My Place once or twice a week but rarely talked about her younger son, Tambascio said. Ryan, the older son, bused table at the restaurant for two years. He is outgoing and personable, she said. The brothers haven't spoken in two years, she said.

"Ryan who was the complete opposite of his brother," she said. Adam "always had his face down. He would never look you in the eye."

Police say the three guns used in the massacre were purchased legally and registered to Nancy Lanza, whom friends described as a gun and shooting aficionado. Tambascio said shooting was "a hobby."

She "had nothing to do with what her son did. She's a good person, goodhearted. She would do anything for you," Tambascio said.

Nancy Lanza "liked the single-mindedness of shooting," her landscaper, Dan Holmes told The Washington Post, Holmes said she mentioned taking her son to the firing range to practice. Holmes never entered the house or saw her son, but she did once bring an antique rifle outside to show him, he told the Post.

The shooter's father, Peter Lanza of Stamford, said the family is "in a state of disbelief."

"We, too, are asking why," he said in a written statement. "Like so many of you, we

are saddened, but struggling to make sense of what has transpired."

The Lanzas' neighbors on Yogananda Street say it's puzzling that on such a close-knit block where residents throw barbecues for newcomers, so few of them knew Adam Lanza or had ever seen him.

"It's a mystery. Nobody knows them, which is odd for this neighborhood," Len Strocchia said. "Everyone knows each other through the children, the school bus. The community here is kids."

Neighbor Dave Lapp said he had little to tell the FBI and State Police when they called on Friday night. "We walked by their house with the dog every day, and we don't know them. We've never even seen them," Lapp said.

Dunn, Adam Lanza's classmate, fears that may have been at the root of the problem.

"Maybe if someone had tried to reach out to Adam—maybe he needed a friend. Maybe this wouldn't have happened," Dunn said. "He's just one kid who slipped through the cracks."

[From USA Today, December 17, 2012]

NEWTOWN PUTS MENTAL SERVICE IN SPOTLIGHT

(By Liz Szabo)

Families and doctors who treat the mentally ill say they hope Friday's tragedy in Newtown, Conn., will refocus the nation's attention on improving mental health services.

Police have not released details about the motives or mental state of shooter Adam Lanza. But perpetrators of similar mass shootings—at Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University and an event in Tuscon for former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords—all had serious mental health conditions.

"We wait for things like this to happen and then everyone talks about mental health," says Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, an associate professor of psychology at Georgetown University Medical Center. "But they quickly forget."

There are hundreds of multiple-casualty shootings a year, says forensic psychologist Dewey Cornell, director of the Virginia Youth Violence Project. People have become so desensitized that they pay no attention, he says, yet mental illness contributes to domestic violence, child abuse, drug addiction, homelessness and incarceration. Investing in mental health care could help prevent tragedies, he says.

"Mental health has shrunk down to the level of short-term crisis management," Cornell says. "We can't think about the gunman in the parking lot and what to do with him. We have to get involved a lot earlier."

Schools and communities "have cut their mental health services to the bone. We're paying a price for it."

CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACKS IN NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THIS TRAGEDY

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heart full of sorrow over the horrific violence at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, which

claimed the innocent lives of twenty children and six school employees. The loss of life and innocence at Sandy Hook is a tragedy over which all Americans mourn, and the thoughts and prayers of Americans everywhere go out to all the victims and their families.

This tragedy represents the fourth time the Nation has been horrified to learn that innocent lives have been ended by gun violence in the past few months. I believe the time has come—indeed, the time has long passed—for this Nation to reevaluate the accessibility and control, in particular, of military assault weapons in our country.

I therefore call upon the President and the Congress to place sensible gun control legislation at the top of their legislative agenda, beginning with the repossession of the expired assault weapons ban. Although such action cannot undo last week's tragedy, I believe it will help to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. For the sake of those lost in Connecticut and all Americans who mourn, we should act without delay.

Words cannot express the deep grief of the families and loved ones of the victims, nor can they properly offer comfort. My thoughts and prayers are with the children, parents, teachers, staff members, and families affected by the violence. I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRUCE
BODAKEN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and true visionary Bruce Bodaken, who many years ago brought his passion to expand health insurance coverage to all Americans to Blue Shield of California. Bruce is now retiring after a remarkable ten-year tenure of outstanding service as Chairman, President and CEO of Blue Shield.

Bruce is not your typical health plan CEO. In fact, I was prepared not to like him when we first met more than ten years ago. He has a Masters degree in philosophy and was teaching that subject at the University of Colorado when he shifted his career to health care. The man who will take over Bruce's role in January 2013, Paul Markovich, currently COO of Blue Shield, calls him their "resident philosopher."

Under Bruce's leadership, Blue Shield became one of the fastest growing health plans in California, with a total membership today of 3.3 million and 4,800 employees. In 2002, Bruce was the first health plan CEO in the country to propose a plan for universal coverage. His plan became a template for the Affordable Care Act enacted by Congress in 2010. I share Bruce's belief that health care is a right, not a privilege.

Bruce launched the Blue Shield of California Foundation which has given over \$150 million in grants during the last five years to support community clinics, children's health initiatives, domestic violence programs, leadership training and policy research. It was named one of the country's 20 most generous corporate foundations by BusinessWeek in 2010.

In a remarkable move, Bruce oversaw the company's precedent setting step to cap prof-

its at two percent of revenue and return the differences to its customers. Last year that difference amounted to almost \$500 million.

Bruce also serves on the board and executive committee of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and the BlueCross and BlueShield Association board. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Value & Science-Driven Health Care and serves on the board of directors of the California Business Roundtable, WageWorks, and the University of California, Berkeley's Health Services Management Program.

He joined Blue Shield in 1994 as president and chief operating officer. Previously, he served as senior vice president and associate chief operating officer of FHP International Corporation in Southern California.

A native of Iowa, Bruce earned his BA from Colorado State University and his MA from the University of Colorado, both in philosophy.

Bruce says that his education has deeply influenced his career and world perspective. When he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Francisco Business Times this year, he said that his training in philosophy, logic, communications and thinking about big questions had an application particularly in a world that was changing to a new model of health care.

In his retirement, Bruce is looking forward to dedicating more time to his family and friends and his favorite past time—tennis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Bruce Bodaken, a compassionate leader, big thinker and tireless advocate. His fight to cover all the uninsured isn't over and hasn't always been easy, but he will not give up. His commitment reminds me of something his most inspirational icon, Nelson Mandela, once said: "When the water starts boiling, it is foolish to turn off the heat."

CELEBRATING THE 85TH BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY KING
BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, we join the people of Thailand in commemorating the 85th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on December 5, 2012.

During King Bhumibol's 66 year reign, he has continued to foster a strong partnership with the United States. As a great source of tranquility in the country, he has helped Thailand strengthen its friendship with the United States while becoming an example of democracy and economic development in Southeast Asia. Next year, we look forward to celebrating the 180th anniversary of America's bilateral relationship with Thailand since the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

King Bhumibol's life work has been dedication to the fulfillment of his coronation oath: "We shall reign with righteousness for the benefit and happiness of the Siamese people." Today we applaud his righteousness and his many accomplishments that have brought peace, stability, and prosperity to the people of Thailand. It is known that His Majesty is a

talented musician, and today we recognize he has replaced discord with harmony throughout his life.

It is my pleasure to join our Thai friends in celebrating this important occasion, and extend my best regards to His Majesty for his good health and a happy birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 17, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on vote No. 627 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4606, as amended); and "yes" on vote No. 628 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3193).

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINE
KROLIK

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Christine Krolik, retiring Hillsborough city council member, former mayor, and tireless advocate for our public schools and many community organizations.

Christine moved to Hillsborough in 1995 with her husband Jeff and two sons, John and Billy. She immediately immersed herself in work to improve the public school system by advocating for smaller class sizes. She combined two of her outstanding talents in this effort: singing and fundraising. While she co-chaired the Scrip Committee from 1996–2000, she launched the Scrippettes singers to promote sales. The four Scrippettes performed jazzy versions of holiday songs including "Jingle Bell Rock," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Swingin' at Santa's Place." Today the group calls itself Swing Set and continues to delight people at civic functions from singing the National Anthem at Giants' games to warming up the crowd at Hillsborough's Light Up the Town celebrations.

Christine's boundless energy has been successfully put to use as co-chair of Hillsborough Concourse events in 2001, co-chair of the Measure B campaign to benefit Hillsborough's public schools in 2002, and the Citizens Communication Advisory Committee appointed by the mayor to help the city council and town staff to communicate with residents about issues affecting the town, also in 2002.

Christine was first elected to the city council in 2004. From 2006–2008, she served as vice mayor, and from 2008–2010 she served as mayor. During her 2010 term, she oversaw Hillsborough's Centennial, a flawlessly orchestrated celebration featuring marching bands, floats and vintage cars, and the dedication of Centennial Park. That year Christine was appropriately honored for her countless contributions as Hillsborough Citizen of the Year.

Christine is a firm believer that a strong sense of community is vital in a city and improves quality of life. While mayor, she embarked on an ambitious agenda to develop a