

protecting your home. You are hunting people.

Let's be clear, this is not about restricting anyone's Second Amendment rights. The Supreme Court has ruled and made clear the right of Americans to own guns. But while reaffirming the Second Amendment, the Court was careful to note that the amendment is not limitless. Justice Scalia explained in *Columbia v. Heller* that "like most rights, the Second Amendment is not unlimited. It is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose."

Can we stop every shooting? No. But can we reduce their frequency and deadlines? Absolutely. Can we do it while still respecting the Second Amendment? Of this I am certain. But the first step toward keeping dangerous guns out of the hands of dangerous people is to begin the conversation. Let's break the silence, stop the violence, and start that conversation.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH REGULATORY BURDENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, I have seen Federal overregulation stifle research universities.

Earlier this year, the National Research Council of the National Academies released its report entitled, "Research Universities and the Future of America: Ten Breakthrough Actions Vital to Our Nation's Prosperity and Security." This report examined Federal regulatory burdens on America's research universities.

On June 27, the Research and Science Education Subcommittee held a hearing on that report and whether regulatory red tape stifles scientific research. I asked our witnesses how we can enhance university scientific research capabilities. Their responses are instructive:

Mr. Chad Holliday, chairman of the National Academies Committee on Research Universities testified:

Federal policymakers and regulators should review the costs and benefits of Federal regulations, eliminating those that are redundant and ineffective, inappropriately applied to the higher education sector, or impose costs that outweigh the benefits to society.

Dr. John Mason, Auburn University associate provost and vice president of research, testified:

A comprehensive review of policies and regulations is perhaps the most important in this report. Streamlining the process, relieving unnecessary and costly administrative burdens, and coordinating research priorities among disparate Federal agencies will invigorate research universities exponentially.

Dr. Jeffrey Seemann, Texas A&M University chief research officer and vice president for research, testified:

Federal agencies and Federal regulators must reduce and/or eliminate unnecessary, overly burdensome, and/or redundant regulatory and reporting obligations for universities and their faculty in order to maximize investments more directly into research priorities and allow faculty time to be optimally utilized.

Dr. Leslie Tolbert, University of Arizona senior vice president for research, testified:

The growing burden of compliance with the increasing numbers and complexity of Federal regulations consumes increasing amounts of time and money, leaving less for more direct support for research.

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Finally, Dr. James Siedow, vice provost for research at my alma mater, Duke University, testified that research universities have been subjected to a:

Growing number of research-related compliance regulations that have flowed down from Federal agencies over the past 10 to 15 years. In that regard, the research-related and quality assurance costs to Duke between 2000 and 2010 rose over 300 percent. This perceived piling on of new reporting requirements has led to negative responses on the part of faculty, who see more and more of their time being committed not to actually carrying out the funded research but to a myriad of mundane administrative duties. The extreme to which some of these regulations have gone of late seems well beyond that needed to accomplish the original regulatory ends.

Consistent with their views, the National Academies recommended:

Reduce or eliminate regulations that increase administrative costs, impede research productivity, and deflect creative energy without substantially improving the research environment.

I asked our witnesses to identify specific regulations to amend or repeal. They are preparing their lists. I look forward to receipt of their recommendations and working to repeal counterproductive red tape that does more harm than good.

According to the National Academies, if we successfully cut wasteful regulations, we:

can reduce administrative costs, enhance productivity, and increase the agility of research institutions. Minimizing administrative and compliance costs will also provide a cost benefit to the Federal Government and to university administrators, faculty, and students by freeing up resources and time to support education and research effort directly. With greater resources and freedom, universities will be better positioned to respond to the needs of their constituents in an increasingly competitive environment.

Mr. Speaker, America's research universities are essential to America's scientific innovation. If we clear the red tape from their path and free them up, they will produce the fundamental research that fosters American exceptionalism and, equally important, results in economic growth and jobs.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JAMES LIGHTFOOT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me today to rise to pay tribute to the late James Lightfoot, pastor of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, who lost his life just a few days ago.

I am delighted I had the opportunity to visit Pastor Lightfoot and his church on their 44th anniversary. It was an exciting time, and he looked forward to the celebrating of the 44th year of his pastoral leadership of that church, as he started in 1968. I am gratified to salute this distinguished gentleman and distinguished American. He used faith in a way of service not only to his parishioners and to those whom he lead as a shepherd, but to those outside those bricks and mortar.

He concentrated on philosophy and ministry. That was his concentration at Southwestern Seminary. He completed a master's in education at Texas Southern University. He holds a Master of Divinity from Houston Graduate School of Theology, and a Doctorate of Ministries from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. At Houston Graduate and Austin Presbyterian the emphasis was on the philosophical implications of ministry as it affected the culture of today. He has done advanced training at Texas Southern University and Houston Graduate School of Theology in counseling. He did an internship at Bellaire Columbia General in their Rapha Unit.

He served as a lecturer in church administration in the Central Baptist Convention and teaches pastoral ministry. He was a conferee to the Transitional Church—Church Conference/Southern Baptist Convention. And as well, he was honored to serve as third vice president to the Independent General District Sunday School and BTU.

He was a gentleman that uses faith to be of service. He deals with the philosophical implications of peace and justice, issues for today's church. How important that is when so many people are hurting. In the backdrop of the tragedy of Aurora, it is imperative that our faith leaders are engaged in our community and pray for their deliverance.

I am delighted to say that he also worked with young people. He was a kind spirit. He was a charitable spirit. He was a professor at LeTourneau University—that's how much he cared for young people—where he taught Bible and Family. He was likewise an adjunct professor. He served on the mayor's affirmative action committee. He served as the chairperson of a Black Ministries Committee of the Union Baptist Association. As well, he has served in many civic and community affairs. As I indicated, he always had a summer program for young people who needed a place to come. He always had a smile on his face. He was always joyful. And, of course, he was a wonderful husband to his wonderful and devoted wife.

He had the privilege of speaking to over 20,000 persons in January of 1992, where he spoke to the Baptist General Convention of Texas—Evangelism Division, to an attendance of over 20,000 persons. And in January of 1992, he was guest preacher for the Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference and delivered the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day sermon at the Austin Presbyterian Seminary, his alma mater.

What I would like to say most of all is that, beyond the accolades that he got on the outside, he was an outstanding human being, an outstanding minister, an outstanding civic leader, someone who continued to serve his community even during his time of illness. You never noted a lack of cheerfulness in Reverend Lightfoot. And in the early stages of his illness, I had the opportunity to visit him at home. And again, what a cheerful, believing person who loved America and served America in his capacity, and that was as a faith leader who believed in all persons, reached beyond his doors, helped build a beautiful new sanctuary on that same street, Homestead, did not move, continued to serve the community, and was known as a light to all.

My sympathies to Velma Mitchell Lightfoot, his wife, and his beautiful children and his eight grandchildren, and being a great-grandfather as well. The diversity of his training has led him to be that light, that servant, that special person. I believe it is appropriate to pay tribute to James Lightfoot who remains, even in death, a light to us all because of the great history and the great legacy he has left.

May God bless him, God bless his service, and I know that he would want me to say that God bless his most wonderful and most great Nation, the United States of America.

Pastor Lightfoot, may you rest in peace.

HONORING PAUL RODGERS PIERCE, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor today to honor Mr. Paul Rodgers Pierce, Jr., for his 25 years of service to the State Theatre of Georgia and the Springer Opera House.

Paul was born on January 19, 1953, in Anniston, Alabama, to Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Pierce. He attended East Rome High School and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1977. After graduation, he developed his passion for theater through working as an actor, director, designer, and booking manager on a number of national touring productions, such as the American Repertory Theater, Flat Rock Playhouse, and Circuit 21 Playhouse. Following his time on tour, he accepted the position of associate artistic director at the American Repertory Theater

under the guidance of Mr. Drexel Riley, who was not only his mentor, but his friend.

Paul's adventures led him across the country when he accepted the position of managing director of Virginia's Wayside Theater, and then as artistic director of the Harbor Playhouse in Corpus Christi, Texas. Thankfully, his travels led him back to Georgia, where he became the artistic director of the Springer Opera House in 1988.

To say Paul was passionate about his job is an understatement. He expanded the artistic mission of the Springer Opera House and took its potential to new heights. Paul created the Spring Theatricals, a national touring company that reaches over 60 American cities annually. He hired Ron Anderson and created the Springer Theatre Academy that mentors and develops over 16,000 children and families through the year-round character education program. With Paul's additions, the audience of Springer has nearly tripled, and the bar for artistic excellence in the community has been held to a higher standard.

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Paul has not only improved the artistic standards in the community, but the physical appearance of the Springer Opera House as well. Paul oversaw the National Historic Landmark Theatre's \$12 million renovation in 1998 and has campaigned for over \$11.5 million for the construction of the McClure Theatre for children's programs and education.

In his 25 years, Paul has helped put the Springer Opera House on the map. In 2008, the Georgia Council for the Arts declared it one of Georgia's top-ranked art institutions. Paul has served on with State Theatre of Georgia as producing artistic director with distinction and dedication and continues to further his mission through the pursuit of selfless innovations to improve the quality of life for the citizens and community of Columbus, Georgia.

I'm proud to stand here today to honor and thank Mr. Paul Rodgers Pierce, Jr., for all he has done for the great State of Georgia, the city of Columbus, and all the children and families he has touched. Paul's devotion and commitment to theater is an inspiration to us all, showing us that with passion and hard work you can make a difference and leave a legacy that will never be forgotten. Thanks, Paul.

START WINNING THE WAR ON MILITARY SUICIDE BY ENDING THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, more than 2,000 U.S. troops have been killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, that dramatically under-

states the human cost of this war, a war that is now nearly 11 years old.

A recent Time magazine cover story details the silent killer of our brave servicemembers—the tragically high suicide rate among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and other members of the service. The article describes how one Army helicopter pilot, who had flown 70 missions in Iraq over 9 months—70 missions over 9 months—waited on the phone for 45 minutes to speak to the Pentagon crisis line when he was in severe distress. The last communication his wife received from him was a text in which he said, “Still on hold.” Several hours later, she found him in their bedroom with a fatal gunshot wound to the neck.

A second victim, an Army doctor who wasn't deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, wrote an email to his wife minutes before hanging himself. It read:

Please always tell my children how much I love them, and most importantly, never, ever let them find out how I died.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer deny the devastating mental health impact of repeated deployments, of continued exposure to explosions, horror, carnage and destruction. Of course, in an institution like the U.S. military that values courage and toughness, there's a reluctance to admit to depression and anxiety.

Sometimes that manifests itself in the worst possible ways. For example, one Army major general wrote an angry diatribe on his blog about the selfishness of troops who killed themselves or were leaving others to “clean up their mess.” He admonished:

Act like an adult, and deal with your real-life problems like the rest of us.

It's about time, Mr. Speaker, that we lost that attitude because we're losing brave Americans at a terrifying clip. In fact, according to the Time article, more soldiers have taken their own lives than have died in Afghanistan. While veterans make up 10 percent of the adult population, they account for 20 percent of the suicides.

We are starting to see more awareness of this problem, thank Heavens. Secretary Panetta says the right things, but it's time to back up rhetoric. It's time to back it up with more resources because the fact is only 4 percent of the Pentagon's medical budget is devoted to mental health, about the same amount that we spend on the Afghan war every day and a half. We spend \$2 billion a year to treat servicemembers suffering from psychological trauma, but we spend \$10 billion a month on the war that is the root of much of that trauma in the first place.

Even if the Afghanistan war ended tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, so much damage is already done. We would still be left with a huge crisis that will require more resolve than we are seemingly prepared to muster. I would expect every Member who has enthusiastically supported this war to just as eagerly support what it takes to fight the suicide epidemic this war has caused. It's