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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HAYWORTH).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 18, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NAN A. S. HAYWORTH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6223. An act to amend section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 to clarify that a period of employment abroad by the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces as a translator, interpreter, or in a security-related position in an executive or managerial capacity is to be counted as a period of residence and physical presence in the United States for purposes of qualifying for naturalization, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2076. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the statutory authority for the longstanding practice of the Department of Justice of providing investigatory assistance on request of State and local authorities with respect to certain serious violent crimes and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1792. An act to clarify the authority of the United States Marshal Service to assist other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the investigation of cases involving sex offenders and missing children.

S. 1793. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the statutory authority for the longstanding practice of the Department of Justice of providing investigatory assistance on request of State and local authorities with respect to certain serious violent crimes, and for other purposes.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### THE CONNECTICUT SCHOOL CHILDREN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, there is nothing more Americana than the image of happy children at school during the Christmas season. Last week, that Norman Rockwell picture was stolen by the murders of our greatest natural resource, our children.

Here are photos of 23 of the 26 victims that were murdered that day. We should know their photographs. We should know their names. They were: Chase Kowalski, 7 years of age; James Mattioli, 6; Jack Pinto, 6; Caroline Previdi, 6; Avielle Richman, 6; Benjamin Wheeler, 6 years of age; Allison Wyatt, age 6; Catherine Hubbard, 6 years of age; Daniel Barden, 7 years

old; Grace McDonnell, 7; Emilie Parker, 6 years of age; Jesse Lewis, age 6; Ana Marquez-Greene, 6; Noah Pozner, 6; Jessica Rekos, 6; Josephine Gray, age 7; Madeleine Hsu, age 6; Charlotte Bacon, age 6; Olivia Engel, age 6; Dylan Hockley, age 6. Those were the children.

Here are the names of the teachers: Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung, age 47; Victoria Soto, age 27; Anne Marie Murphy, age 52; Lauren Rousseau, 30; Mary Sherlach, 56; Rachel D'Avino, age 29.

Madam Speaker, these were real people. Real victims, real children, and real teachers of Newtown, Connecticut.

The people of Connecticut have started burying these victims of this assault on America. And all Americans can relate to some extent to this crime that has occurred at this elementary school.

Madam Speaker, I have four kids and 10 grandkids. Three of my daughters are teachers by profession. My wife is a first grade elementary schoolteacher. No parent ever wants to bury their child. We just don't want to do that. We never want our children to die in their youth, like these children did.

So, Madam Speaker, we mourn with the families of Connecticut. We must honor the victims in our prayers and in our words and ask the good Lord to bless them, their families, the people of Connecticut, and, yes, our country as well.

And that's just the way it is.

### GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the jarring violence of last week seared into our consciousness. It started in Portland, Oregon, with a mall shooting that might have been worse, and ended in Newton, Connecticut, where it's impossible to imagine that it could have

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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been worse. It's part of an ongoing pattern of carnage because we lose one life to gun violence every 20 minutes every hour every day.

The mass murderer's rampage gets the Nation's attention, but the same total loss of life at Sandy Hook happens more than twice every day all year long.

This is personal for me not just because the mall shooter was in my district, but I had a high school friend who was killed with a random, freak drive-by shooting. My brother took his life with a handgun as a young man. I've supported gun safety provisions at the State and Federal level at every opportunity. It might be different now, not just because of the horrific images of parades of funerals for little children.

I salute Mayor Bloomberg's unstinting advocacy for gun safety and mobilizing America's mayors who bear the brunt of gun violence. I welcome the President's leadership and will support any reform that he advances.

But I would urge my colleagues to read the columns in the Sunday Times by my fellow Oregonian, Nick Kristof, and Ezra Klein's article in yesterday's Washington Post. They demonstrate we know what works. There are examples around the world. Even in America with lax, weak gun protections, there are, in fact, some regulations in some places, and they make a difference.

Let's treat gun violence like any public health crisis, which I would say losing 30,000 lives a year would qualify as a crisis. We need to treat it like the threat to public health and families that it is, treat a gun like any other consumer product. This is how we slashed the auto death rate—vehicle design and driver behavior, enforcement and education.

For guns, it starts when Congress stops being intimidated by the extremists, and then just do what the majority of gun owners agree we should do—renew the assault weapon ban which many of us will introduce under the leadership of our dear friend and colleague, CAROLYN MCCARTHY; ban large magazines and the most devastating bullets; and close the gun show loophole. These are for starters, things that NRA members agree with.

□ 1010

Let's care as much about real guns as we do about toy gun consumer protection to start us down the road of making our children safer, by treating children's gun safety like their auto safety.

With all the airbags, anti-drunk driving campaigns, child seats, driver education, careful licensing, we slashed the accident rate. Yes, it didn't eliminate accidents all together. But we can't imagine a world without these protections for our families.

Let's see if we can imagine a world where our children are safer from gun violence, and then make it happen.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS NICHOLAS CHECQUE

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Petty Officer First Class Nicholas Checque, a true hero who sacrificed his life in the most honorable of ways—to protect and save the life of another human being. His life was a testament to the core values of the United States Navy: honor, courage and commitment.

On December 9, 2012, Petty Officer Checque embarked on a daring Special Forces operation in eastern Afghanistan to rescue a kidnapped American doctor from the Taliban in the Sarobi district near Kabul. A veteran of the Iraq war and decorated Navy SEAL, Petty Officer Checque died following critical injuries sustained on the successful mission to save the life of Dr. Joseph. A grateful Nation grieves for him and his family.

Petty Officer Checque strived for excellence, Madam Speaker. As a Norwin High School student, peers described him as diligent and driven, always aware he would someday serve his country. He was a dedicated student and a wrestler. He consistently challenged himself to pursue excellence in everything he did. Such dedication to one's country was also carried on by Petty Officer Checque. That is truly remarkable, but it's also expected of a Navy SEAL.

Among many commendations, Petty Officer Checque was awarded the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals for service during combat, and now, the Purple Heart.

The Bible reminds us that "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Through his incredible sacrifice, Petty Officer Checque not only exhibited his great love of country, but unwavering affection for his brothers and sisters.

"The Navy Hymn," also known as "Eternal Father," has a verse added. I don't know the author, but it is fitting to recall now. It goes on to say:

And when at length her course is run, her work for home and country done, of all the souls that in her sailed, let not one life in thee have failed; but hear from heaven our sailor's cry, and grant eternal life on high.

To Petty Officer Checque, we all bid him fair winds and following seas for eternity. May he rest in peace, and may the Lord keep him and his family in his loving hands.

#### CONGRESS HAS DONE NOTHING

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, Albert Einstein once said, "The world is

a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."

Madam Speaker, we have looked on and done nothing. We in this body, we in this Congress, we in this government, have done nothing, nothing to protect the innocent lives of 20 defenseless children gunned down in Connecticut last Friday. Nothing to protect the 87 people killed each day from guns across America. Nothing to stop the epidemic of senseless gun violence that plagues not only our major cities like New York and Chicago, but countless small towns throughout our Nation, towns with names like Newtown, Aurora, Tucson, Dekalb, Blacksburg, and Littleton.

In the nearly 4 years I've been a Member of this body, this House has not held a single hearing, not one, to address gun violence, while over 30,000 Americans die each year from gun violence, while over 400 lives have been lost to gun violence in my hometown of Chicago. People are dying every day, and we in this body have been afraid to even talk about it.

This crisis demands our action. The time has come for us to stop listening to the gun lobby and start listening to the American people. The fact is, the majority of Americans, gun owning and not, desire commonsense, reasonable gun regulations.

Congress must no longer stand in the way of reasonable regulation. Instead, we must champion it. The American people want to see background checks required on all firearm purchases instead of the fraction of sales that get them today.

Forty percent of U.S. gun sales are by private sellers who are not required to perform background checks. You can be a three-time convicted felon, a serial domestic abuser, severely mentally ill, or even on a terrorist watch list and still go to a gun show or go on the Internet and buy whatever gun you want.

The American people want to strengthen databases to prevent the mentally ill from buying guns. But over a million disqualifying mental health records are still missing from the national background check database. Ten States have failed to flag a single person as mentally ill in their database, and 17 States list fewer than 100 people.

Americans want to see the assault weapons ban reinstated and keep military weapons off our streets and large capacity ammunition clips banned to keep dangerous ammunition out of the hands of madmen.

Let's face it, when you put a 30-round clip in an assault weapon, you're not protecting your home, you're not hunting deer; you are hunting people.

We have hid from this fight for too long. For too long we have used politics and the Second Amendment to cover up our lack of action. Yes, the Supreme Court affirmed that we have a right to bear arms, but in that same