

IN HONOR OF JAMES J. SWEENEY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor James J. Sweeney of Havertown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sweeney entered the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1943, and served aboard the USS Hancock. The Hancock took part in some of World War II's most pivotal battles, including the invasions of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Mr. Sweeney was honored for his heroic service and awarded the Philippines Liberation Medal, two Battles Stars and a Presidential Unit Commendation.

It was during his time in the Navy, that Mr. Sweeney befriended his shipmate, John Finn. Lieutenant Finn received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions at Pearl Harbor. During the Japanese surprise attack, Lieutenant Finn manned his machine gun and fought off the Japanese Zeroes for two and half hours even as he took an onslaught of bullets and shrapnel. And for the past nine years, James Sweeney has tirelessly worked to honor Lieutenant John Finn, who passed away in 2009. On February 15th, 2011, those efforts proved successful as the Navy announced that a new guided missile destroyer will be named the USS John Finn. For these efforts Mr. Sweeney is being honored by American Legion Post 667 in Havertown. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I congratulate Mr. Sweeney on his efforts to ensure that Lieutenant Finn's name and legacy lives on, and for his service during World War II, reflecting great credit upon himself and the United States Navy.

IN MEMORY OF HELEN HANSFORD

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends and a jewel of southern Kentucky, the late Helen Hansford.

Helen was a staunch Republican since the day she was old enough to officially register, at the age of 21. From then on, she stood firm on conservative principles with her sweet southern charm. Helen became a member of the Republican Women's Club in 1966, served as an executive committee member of Kentucky's Republican Party for more than 20 years, and attended every Republican National Convention since 1984, until news of a malignant brain tumor interrupted her plans in 2011.

Helen's husband, the late Sherman Hansford, served as Pulaski County Sheriff for many years. During his service, Helen was right by Sherman's side, serving as a deputy sheriff and office clerk. She had a passion for public service and believed in being a part of transforming her hometown and helping others succeed. In fact, Helen's heartbeat raced for the children in Pulaski County Schools. As the Executive Assistant to the Pulaski County Schools Superintendent and a member of the Pulaski County Board of Education, Helen

never hesitated to take on the reins of responsibility when action was needed. Yet, she was always a true lady, winning over hearts with her generous spirit and words of encouragement.

When Helen believed in a cause, she invested herself into its success with every ounce of energy she had to offer. She devoted more than 50 years to numerous boards and agencies, including the Order of the Eastern Star, Kentucky Public Retirees, along with local, state and national Republican politics. In honor of her tireless dedication, Helen was recently inducted into the Pulaski County Lincoln Club Hall of Fame and the Republican 5th District Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an irreplaceable friend to southern Kentucky, the late Helen Hansford.

IN HONOR OF CHARLOTTE
ELLSWORTH**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a remarkable mother, wife, friend, and public servant. Charlotte Ellsworth passed away just before Christmas. I had the great fortune of meeting her through her work at the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, where I often encountered her during meetings or events related to the reuse of Fort Ord. At FORA, Charlotte was the ever present cheerful voice on the phone or steady presence at sometimes heated public meetings. I know that all of us who have worked with FORA, either as community leaders, members of the public, or her colleagues, will miss her very much.

Charlotte was born in Carmel, California, on January 5, 1953. Her family lived in Seaside, California, at the time, but moved to nearby Prunedale in 1954. Her father was a painter and foreman of a glass shop on Fort Ord and was eventually promoted as Engineer of the Presidio of Monterey. She attended Echo Valley Elementary School in Prunedale and graduated from Watsonville High School in the class of 1970.

Charlotte was a lifelong member of the Las Lomas Full Gospel Church in Watsonville, where she married Kenneth Ellsworth, a soldier at Fort Ord, in 1974. In 1975, Charlotte and Ken moved to Castroville, where she lived until her passing. Charlotte and Ken welcomed a son, Kenneth Jr., in 1976. Kenneth Jr. and his wife, Edith, both serve as police officers in Salinas, California. They recently welcomed a baby girl, Alyssa, who was the light of Charlotte's life and who Ken Sr. laughingly says "will not be a police officer."

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our condolences to Charlotte Ellsworth's family, friends, and colleagues. The loss of such a remarkable person is particularly painful. I hope that all of those affected by her early passing can take comfort in the remarkable difference that she made in the lives of all those that she touched.

CONGRATULATING THE 2012 BCS
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, THE UNI-
VERSITY OF ALABAMA CRIMSON
TIDE**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an exceptional group of young men who, for the second year in a row, have distinguished themselves as the undisputed national champions of college football. On January 7, 2013, the University of Alabama Crimson Tide captured the BCS National Championship with a decisive 42 to 14 victory over the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

By clinching their third BCS national championship in four years, the Crimson Tide has cemented their place in college football history and prompted some to ask if this remarkable team might be unequalled in the storied annals of the game.

As Kevin Scarbinsky of the Birmingham News observed in a January 8 op-ed,

All the while Notre Dame was reliving history, Alabama was making it. All over the golden domes of the Fighting Irish. Only one team played like a champion Monday in the BCS National Championship Game. Only one team shook down the thunder with old-school football and woke up the echoes of the greatest dynasties in the sport. Yea Alabama. The Crimson Tide became the third program in the poll era of college football history to win a third national championship in four years by taking apart the first program to do it. The Notre Dame champions of 1946, 1947 and 1949 would appreciate the Alabama champions of 2009, 2011 and 2012 because Alabama's third title came at Notre Dame's expense, right in Notre Dame's face.

Given that Alabama plays in a Southeastern Conference that's won seven straight BCS titles, in a state with a rival in Auburn that interrupted this parade with its own championship, we're witnessing the greatest run in college football history. Greater than Notre Dame in the 1940s, Alabama in the 1970s or Nebraska in the 1990s.

To win it again Monday was special. To do it against Notre Dame, Alabama's historical nemesis, was memorable. To leave no doubt on the scoreboard leaves no doubt in the debate. This was history. This is a dynasty. The best we've ever seen. The best there's ever been.

Congratulations to head coach Nick Saban, and coaches Burton Burns, Mike Groh, Doug Nussmeier, Jeff Stoutland, Jeremy Pruitt, Kirby Smart, Lance Thompson, Bobby Williams, Chris Rumph, Scott Cochran, and Joe Pannunzio. And, above all, congratulations to the 2012 BCS Champion Crimson Tide football team: Edward Aldag, Ryan Anderson, Jonathan Atchison, Dakota Ball, Parker Barrineau, Kenny Bell, Deion Belue, Jerrod Bierbower, Chris Black, Chris Bonds, Hunter Bush, Brent Calloway, Caleb Castille, Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, Landon Collins, Levi Cook, Amari Cooper, Trey DePriest, Denzel Devall, Quinton Dial, Josh Dickerson, Xzavier Dickson, Dillon Drake, Kenyan Drake, Dustin Ellison, Phillip Ely, Malcolm Faciane, LaMichael Fanning, D.J. Fluker, Cade Foster, Jalston Fowler, Kurt Freitag, John Fulton, Brandon Greene, Adam Griffith, Caleb Gullette, Rowdy Harrell, Dee Hart, Tyler Hayes, Ben Howell, Adrian Hubbard, Brandon Ivory, Kelly Johnson, Nico

Johnson, Aaron Joiner, Barrett Jones, Christion Jones, Cyrus Jones, Harrison Jones, Ryan Kelly, Korren Kirven, Arie Kouandjio, Cyrus Kouandjio, Eddie Lacy, Darren Lake, Dillon Lee, Robert Lester, Chad Lindsay, Wilson Love, Isaac Luatua, Josh Magee, Cody Mandell, Nathan McAlister, AJ McCarron, Corey McCarron, Dee Milliner, William Ming, Alec Morris, Taylor Morton, C.J. Mosley, Michael Newsome, Harold Nicholson, Kevin Norwood, Michael Nysewander, Anthony Orr, Tyler Owens, Jeffrey Pagan, Tana Patrick, Nick Perry, D. J. Pettway, Parker Philpot, Marcus Polk, Reggie Ragland, Russell Raines, Ty Reed, Trey Roberts, Jeremy Shelley, Austin Shepherd, Alex Shine, Marvin Shinn, Blake Sims, Geno Smith, Damion Square, Anthony Steen, Ed Stinson, Vinnie Sunseri, Bradley Sylve, Alphonse Taylor, MK Taylor, Carson Tinker, Dalvin Tomlinson, Brian Vogler, Paul Waldrop, Chance Warmack, Jabriel Washington, Ranzell Watkins, DeAndrew White, Wilson Whorton, Eddie Williams, Jarrick Williams, Jesse Williams, Kellen Williams, Michael Williams, Nick Williams, Danny Woodson Jr, and T.J. Yeldon.

And on behalf of Bama fans around the world, Roll Tide!

A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus to address the pervasive culture of violence that exists in America today.

The community in Newtown, Connecticut—along with the rest of the country—is still reeling from the inconceivable tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary on December 14, 2012; our hearts still ache with sadness and disbelief for the families and loved ones of the children and women who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence.

As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, I have listened to the tragic testimony of individuals who have survived or lost loved ones as a result of gun violence.

In the words of President Obama after the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting, "We're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this, regardless of the politics."

While it is certainly true that violent crime and homicide rates in this country have been declining in recent years, they are still far above those in other industrialized nations.

Moreover, in America, there exists a pernicious culture of violence; a subculture that with today's technologically advanced weaponry is far more dangerous to public safety than ever before. At no point in our nation's history has a single human been more capable of inflicting massive death and misery, and our society is producing more individuals who wish to employ such means to carry out their ill intentions.

Far too often, the tool of choice for would-be killers is a firearm. Moreover, military-style assault weapons with high-capacity magazines

are not just in the hands of our men and women in the armed services; they on our streets. Many of them are in the wrong hands, and end up being the highly efficient tools of criminals and mass murderers.

Today marks a month since the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. In that time, at least 836 more people in America have died from gun violence and accidental shootings.

This isn't a fluke; every day, on average, 33 Americans are murdered with guns, amounting to more than 12,000 people a year. In addressing this issue, I recognize and respect other cultures that exist in America; law-abiding citizens who are responsible in their ownership of firearms. Many of these citizens are reasonable with respect to the lethal capacity of their firearms, opting not to obtain assault weapons or to equip assault weapons with 30, 50, 75, or 100-round magazines.

Our reaction to, God forbid, the next time a madman enters a crowded movie theatre with the intent to kill, cannot simply be to wish that there was an armed good Samaritan in the audience who had the courage, opportunity and ability to stop a psychopathic shooter wielding a semi-automatic weapon equipped with a high-capacity magazine.

I commend the President for convening a Gun Violence Task Force, and Vice President Biden for his outstanding leadership.

As the President develops policy recommendations, as Members of Congress, we need to act as well.

H.R. 65: "THE CHILD GUN SAFETY AND GUN ACCESS PREVENTION ACT OF 2013"

We have all been shaken by tragic events in which children are the victims of gun violence or accidents. Whether these events occurred in Newtown, CT, Aurora, CO, or on the streets of Chicago, IL, we need to effectively address the safety of our children immediately. Urban, suburban, or rural, guns have impacted children across the demographic spectrum.

While the nation's attention has often been drawn toward some of the more high-profile events, the broader statistics are disturbing, demonstrating a real need to address how we protect our nation's children from gun violence.

Every 30 minutes, a child or teenager in America dies or is injured by a gun. Every 3 hours and 15 minutes, a child or teenager loses their life to a firearm. In 2010, 82 children under 5 years of age lost their lives due to guns. To put that in perspective, 58 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty that year.

As the 113th Congress debates various proposals for gun legislation in light of recent tragedies, we can act now to pass H.R. 65, a bill with common sense standards that is focused on protecting our nation's children from gun violence and accidents.

H.R. 65 will raise the handgun eligibility age from 18 to 21, and will prohibit persons under the age of 21 from possessing semiautomatic assault weapons or large capacity magazines.

Moreover, H.R. 65 increases penalties on individuals who knowingly transfer a handgun, ammunition, semiautomatic assault weapon, or large capacity ammunition feeding device to a person under age 21.

In addition, H.R. 65 will also prohibit importers, manufacturers, and dealers from transferring firearms without providing the purchaser with a gun storage or safety device.

Finally, H.R. 65 authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to provide grants to enable local law

enforcement agencies to develop and sponsor gun safety classes for parents and children.

These provisions, and others, can go a long way toward making our homes, schools, and streets safer for children across this country. We may not be able to prevent every gun-related tragedy from occurring in the future, but we have a responsibility to implement reasonable standards that will prevent the loss of innocent lives.

As we call for legislation to address gun related violence, it is also important to address another growing epidemic . . . the epidemic of bullying. We live in a society where children are exposed to so many different influences. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of children who have to face bullies in the classroom and in cyberspace. As we discuss the culture of violence, we must always remember the impact that this culture has on our nation's children.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Today Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Those who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. It used to be that Bullying just happened primarily among over youth but as we are seeing today even the elderly and adults are being bullied. This must stop.

I introduced in the 112th Congress H.R. 83 "Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act," which calls for the reauthorization of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants at \$40 million for each FY 2013–2017, which amounts to \$200 million in funding.

In addition, my bill would add purpose area to provide for grant funding to States for programs that address bullying, cyberbullying prevention, and gang prevention and intervention in addition to expressing a Sense of Congress on the importance of best practices.

The JABG program authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to states and units of local government to strengthen their juvenile justice systems and foster accountability within their juvenile populations. The program focuses resources on holding juveniles accountable for their actions and building up the juvenile justice system in the states.

It also essentially signifies the high-water mark of the federal government's movement away from an emphasis on rehabilitating juveniles and toward the idea that juveniles need to be punished for their crimes; indeed, the only core mandate of the JABG program is that states must begin to implement a system of graduated sanctions in order to be eligible for funding.

Many of the deadly cases of bullying arise when children are teased and tormented simply for being different. There has been a recent upswing of suicides amongst lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) teens as a result of bullying.

Almost 85 percent of LGBT teenagers are harassed in high school because of their sexual orientation, with 61 percent of gay youth reporting that they felt unsafe in school and 30% staying home to avoid bullying.

By law, we require our children to go to school. Therefore, we have a duty to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children, one in which they should not be afraid. It is important that our children know that bullying will not be taken lightly, and that there will be consequences for such actions.