

time for the President and the Democrat Senate to do the same.

□ 1210

NRA LIST OF ANTI-GUN INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. The AARP, the American Medical Association, the Episcopal Church, the Catholic Conference, the Conference of Mayors, Bob Barker, Oprah Winfrey, Tony Bennett, the Kansas City Chiefs, the Sara Lee Corporation, and hundreds of other individuals and organizations all have something in common: they're all targeted on NRA's Web site as holding anti-gun positions.

And what does the NRA consider to be anti-gun? For one, they say that the listed individuals and groups are opposed to the "repeal of the Brady Act." It's not that they support expanding background checks to include all gun sales, which would seem to be reasonable; it's that they're opposed to the repeal of the current Brady Act which would end all background checks.

With over 30,000 Americans killed every year by guns, it seems that this is the time for swift and focused action to mitigate our Nation's gun violence epidemic. It's not time to be drawing up an enemies list of those who support reasonable gun safety measures. I'd suggest to some of my colleagues in the House: with enemies like these, perhaps it's time to rethink who your friends are.

PRaising THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ADELE HALL

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the life and legacy of a personal hero of mine. Adele Hall was one of the kindest, warmest and friendliest people I have ever known. Yesterday, Adele was laid to rest amongst the outpouring of family and friends who were touched and inspired by the heartwarming and graceful life that Adele led.

Called the first lady of Kansas City, Adele and her adoring husband, Don, have been staples of the Kansas City community for a generation, providing irreplaceable leadership in both business and civic affairs.

Her obituary states in part:

Adele was interested in a broad range of community needs with a special passion for the needs of children. She was tireless working toward those interests in any capacity needed—as a visionary board chairman, energetic champion and catalyst for change, hardworking committee member, dedicated fundraiser or hands-on volunteer.

We will forever miss Adele's good deeds in our community; but, most of

all, I will miss her smile. To Adele Hall, thank you for your life of inspirational leadership. You have forever found a place in our hearts.

BATTLE OF THE BUDGETS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. So in the middle of a busy legislative week, the Republicans are going to bring up a bill to require the President to submit a balanced budget. It would be good if first perhaps they looked in the mirror, because this comes from the same House Republicans who in the last Congress passed the Ryan budget which got great accolades from the right.

Unfortunately, the Ryan budget, even with directed scoring, that is, made-up numbers, the pretend "if you cut taxes, you'll increase revenues," wouldn't pretend to balance a budget until 2040—and that was after it did away with Medicare, student financial aid, and a few other domestic programs.

Now let's get real around here. One-third of the deficit is due to high unemployment. We need a strategy to put Americans back to work. That requires investment—investment in education, investment in our roads, bridges, highways, transit systems, jetties, levees, dams, and harbors across the country. That would put Americans back to work. That would get this country moving again, not a bunch of fake bills about a budget that they have no intention of balancing.

UPHOLDING OUR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, the victims of the recent tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, and the victims of the other recent shootings deserve our solemn prayers for their loss and our deepest sympathy for their pain.

As a Nation, we should focus our collective grief and attention on finding actual solutions to prevent such tragedies in the future. But gun bans are not the answer. History shows that gun bans only keep guns away from law-abiding citizens, not criminals. Blaming a gun for violence is like blaming a pen for a misspelled word.

Mr. Speaker, this week President Obama hosted his latest in an unfortunate series of anti-gun pep rallies. This Nation does not need more political posturing. Instead, we need a serious discussion about how we address mental health as a Nation, and we need to take action to better protect our children in their schools.

I stand ready to protect the Second Amendment rights of our citizens and work with anyone who will support policies that could actually stop future violence.

HONORING JOAN MULHERN

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. I rise to honor a person whose time was short, but whose contribution was great. Joan Mulhern passed away this past December at the age of 51. Joan graduated from the University of Vermont, and she very quickly made a name for herself as a fierce and extremely effective advocate for the environment in her position with the Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

Although Joan then left Vermont to pursue a law degree here in Washington, D.C., and later went on to a very successful and effective career at Earth Justice, Vermont never left Joan.

The values with which she pursued her passion for a clean environment and for a sustainable environment were ones Vermonters know well. She was relentless, she was tenacious, she was tireless, she was kind, and she was very effective.

As Joan's friends have noted, she would have been uncomfortable with all the tributes that have been paid to her, but she'll have to give us a pass on this one because she certainly lived a life worthy of praise and honor.

ADDRESSING THE BUDGET CRISIS

(Mrs. WAGNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, every day, hardworking families and small businessowners from the Second District of Missouri create budgets, set priorities, and live within their means. Yet President Obama and the Senate Democrats keep writing blank checks on the backs of our children and our grandchildren.

Yesterday marked the fourth time in the last 5 years that President Obama has missed his deadline to submit a budget on time to the American people, and the Democrat-led Senate has only exacerbated the debt crisis by not passing a budget in almost 4 years. This is simply unacceptable, and House Republicans stand prepared to address this crisis and offer a responsible budget again this year.

American families deserve better than missed deadlines, more spending, and more debt. They deserve answers and accountability. This week, the House will vote to require the President to show a plan of exactly when and how he would balance the Federal budget.

The 113th Congress was elected to tackle the big problems, and there is no greater problem facing our Nation right now than our out-of-control spending and debt.

HONORING JACK DYSON OF THE RENDEZVOUS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Memphis, Tennessee, has an iconic restaurant known worldwide, the Rendezvous. And it's iconic because it's got great ribs, many artifacts about the mid-South, but also a great wait staff that makes everybody feel at home. One of those iconic waiters, Jack Dyson, will be retiring after 45 years.

Jack is 78 years old, and he will retire this week after serving millions of customers from Presidents and First Ladies to the Rolling Stones, to Bill Cosby, and to regular people that come in and are made to feel at home when they come to the Rendezvous for the world-class fare. Jack Dyson has made me feel at home. He's a part of the Rendezvous. When he retires, part of the Rendezvous will go with him.

I thank Jack for his service to his country as a Korean war veteran and to his service to the world at the world-famous Rendezvous.

HONORING BUCKS PROMISE FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding efforts of an organization in my district in Pennsylvania, Bucks Promise for Youth and Communities. This group is being honored February 7 by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, which is the Nation's leading substance abuse prevention organization, representing over 5,000 community anti-drug coalitions across the country.

Bucks Promise for Youth and Communities will be receiving the Dose of Prevention Award, an esteemed award which acknowledges community-based organizations that have taken the initiative to raise awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse and over-the-counter cough medicine abuse.

Bucks Promise for Youth and Communities consists of individuals who truly exemplify leadership and ingenuity. They have made tremendous strides in educating my district on the dangers of medicine abuse through take-back events and townhall-style community discussions. I congratulate them and applaud the continuous efforts to bring this crucial issue to the forefront of our community.

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, later this week, the United States Senate will

pick up where Congress left off by passing the Violence Against Women Act. As a cochair of the Victims' Rights Caucus, every day victims' advocates do the hard work of making sure their voices are heard for the assistance of the programs authorized under the Violence Against Women Act.

Last year alone, the Marjaree Mason Center of Fresno, which I have worked with over the years, and the Valley Crisis Center in Merced provided emergency housing for over 1,100 women and children in their time of need.

We have learned a lot from victims' rights advocates and law enforcement since the law was enacted in 1994. It's time we used those lessons to put the safety of all crime victims first and stop playing politics.

Now the House must follow the Senate's lead by quickly adopting this measure to show that protecting victims is a top priority of this Congress.

□ 1220

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act, a critical law that has helped Americans balance the demands of work and family for 20 years.

Over these last two decades, FMLA has helped to foster strong family relationships, ensuring parents could take time with a new child, allowing workers to care for older family members, and permitting military families the time to prepare for new deployments. For this, we are all grateful.

But we must remember that FMLA is only the first step to helping our working families. Too many are still without FMLA's protections, and millions who are eligible can't afford to take unpaid leave.

As we reflect on 20 years of great success, let's recommit to improving this program going forward to help keep all American families strong.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. CLARKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, Monday, November 26, 2012, is a great day for the residents of my town. New York City went 24 hours without a single person being injured or killed by gun violence. That day, the Brownsville section of Brooklyn within my district, which has experienced more shooting victims last year than any other part of the city, saw a most-needed reprieve from the violence it experiences on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, women and children are gunned down every day in urban com-

munities across the country by illegal handgun violence. In fact, on average, more than 100,000 people in the United States are shot and killed with a gun annually. This is endemic in communities of color where illegal handgun violence has become a very serious public health issue. These numbers are unacceptable, especially in a State and city with some of the strictest gun laws in the Nation.

Lastly, gun violence is not an inevitable problem, yet it continues to plague our communities. We owe it to the people we represent and to future generations to act with urgency and conviction to put an end to this senseless pattern of gun violence.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues today in Congress, the American people, and our President to say that now is the time to end the senseless gun violence that has plagued our neighborhoods from the streets of Compton and Chicago to the schools and movie theaters in Newtown and Aurora.

Now is the time to pass legislation that is necessary to protect our children and our families from these repeated patterns of senseless gun violence. Our children should not have to live in fear while learning their ABCs or college algebra or innocently waiting at a bus stop after school or seeing a movie. I believe America is ready to take commonsense steps to keep our families and our communities safe.

Today, I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move quickly and support President Obama's comprehensive gun violence prevention plan that calls for universal background checks and a ban on those military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines that have no place in our neighborhoods.

We must continue to take concrete steps toward keeping Americans safe. The time is now.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, there are many details yet to divine as we bring our laws in line with our values in the coming debate over immigration reform, but I caution my colleagues against using additional enforcement and security measures as a condition and a pretext to delay much-needed reform.

While we should always seek to improve the security of this country in ways that are consistent with our Constitution, I remind my colleagues of our efforts and the cost borne by border communities as we have worked to secure the border in the years since 9/11.