

There was no objection.

PRESERVING THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud supporter of the right to keep and bear arms. I am appalled by the President's attempts to erode our constitutional freedoms and impress his will by executive order. Our Founding Fathers would not have imagined that the right they listed second in the Bill of Rights, the right to bear arms, would be systematically attacked.

My opposition to what the President has proposed is based on the fact that his plan is not only unconstitutional, it is not effective. The Federal Government has tried a ban on these weapons before, and it did not work.

The National Institute of Justice states that "there has been no discernible reduction in the lethality and injuriousness of gun violence" due to the 1994 assault weapons ban. Gun control laws do not make our communities safer. They do not take firearms from criminals but, rather, from law-abiding citizens.

Second, the phrase "assault weapons ban" is a term of art. These are semi-automatic guns that essentially shoot the same kind of bullets as small-game hunting rifles. Simply put, these are hunting rifles made to look like a military gun. Banning it for cosmetic reasons doesn't make sense and won't save any more lives.

Third, banning large capacity magazines will do little to stop criminals. Any gun that uses a magazine can use a magazine of any size. That's true of rifles and handguns. So-called "assault weapons" are not any different.

In the end, if the President wants to begin a national dialogue about stopping violence, he shouldn't start by taking away our rights as citizens. I am willing to work with the President and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find a real solution to the challenges we face, but that solution will have to look at all the issues involved. But perhaps the most important part of the solution is restoring a culture of life in this country again.

May God bless America.

□ 1900

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, March 3, 2013, the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and other women's organizations led the reenactment of the historic Women's Suffrage march down Pennsylvania Avenue. In March 1913, Delta Sigma Theta's 22 founders engaged in their first public act by joining other

women in a "spirit of protest against the political organization of society from which women were excluded."

While we have achieved a great deal in the last 100 years, it is quite evident that our journey is not complete. Women still deserve equal pay for equal work. Women deserve to control their own reproductive rights.

We still have to fight for the rights of all Americans to participate in the electoral process. The struggle continues.

MS. MORGAN—THE TEACHER; KARA ALEXANDER—THE STUDENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. "Thank a Teacher." Mr. Speaker, we have all seen that bumper sticker.

I come from a family of teachers. My mother, mother-in-law, wife, and three of my four kids are teachers by profession.

When a special little girl, Kara, was in the third grade, she and her parents noticed her difficulty in processing words. Her speech pattern affected her self-esteem, her self-worth, and even her weight. Some kids made fun of her. Mrs. Morgan, the third grade teacher, was determined to help the little girl speak better.

With hard work, the little girl and teacher overcame the word problem. The student graduated as high school valedictorian. She obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees. She also obtained a Ph.D.

There is more. Today, that little girl received notice that she is tenured as an associate professor at Baylor University in the department of, yes, English. For you see, Kara Poe Alexander, our daughter, the little girl that had trouble talking, has a Ph.D. in English rhetoric, the study of words.

Congratulations, Kara, on being tenured faculty. And thank you, Mrs. Morgan, a teacher.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING FRANCES PERKINS

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 80 years ago today, Frances Perkins was sworn in as Secretary of Labor. This is Women's History Month, and Frances Perkins certainly made history.

She was the first woman member in the history of the United States to be part of the Cabinet, and still holds the record as the longest serving Secretary of Labor. She brought us the Fair Labor Standards Act, giving working women and men fair wages, limits on overtime, and the right to organize. She was the architect of the Social Security Act.

Frances Perkins helped bring us out of the Great Depression. And as we

come out of the Great Recession, we need to ask what Frances Perkins would do today.

She would fight to raise the minimum wage. Almost two-thirds of all minimum-wage workers are women. Many are the sole breadwinners for their families. She would defend Social Security against those who want to cut its very modest benefits.

So today, we take time to remember Frances Perkins. Her message is still relevant today. Our Nation is stronger if we give working women—and men—fair opportunities and treatment.

PASSING THE SAFE SCHOOLS ACT

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

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, the first high-profile school shooting in modern memory occurred in Stockton, California, where a gunman took the lives of five innocent children and injured 29 others.

Robert Young, just 7 years old at that time, was one of the injured. He came up here last week to talk about gun control. This is part of his testimony:

I remember what it sounded like, as the bullets flew past my body. I remember the feeling of my feet literally being swept out from under me as a round traveled through my right foot. I remember the slap of the round that hit the pavement an inch or so in front of me, prior to lodging itself in the left side of my chest.

Today, Rob is a sworn law enforcement officer in the State of California. He came to Washington, not to urge Congress to pass more gun control, but to exhort this body to protect the Second Amendment.

In the 22 years prior to the 1990 enactment of federally dictated "gun-free school zones," there were only two mass shootings on school or university campuses. In the 22 years since, there have been 10, a five-fold increase. Not only have so-called "gun-free school zones" proven not to be "gun free," they appear to have placed our children in even greater danger.

The time has come to end this very deadly experiment of disarming peaceable, law-abiding citizens near schools. That's why I introduced H.R. 35, the Safe Schools Act, to repeal these deadly, so-called "gun-free school zones."

Law-abiding adults, including parents, teachers, and administrators who are allowed in their States to carry a firearm, should not be required to be disarmed. Our children are too precious to be turned into unprotected, soft targets for dangerous people. Passing the Safe Schools Act is the first step toward protecting our children.

COMMEMORATING THE LEGACY OF JEANNETTE RANKIN

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of March as Women's History Month and to commemorate the legacy of Jeannette Rankin, the first elected woman to serve in the House of Representatives on this day, March 4, 1917.

Jeannette Rankin furthered women's rights, ensuring universal suffrage and protecting the poor. She began her career as a community organizer, working in low-income neighborhoods in San Francisco, New York, and Washington State, and she witnessed the troubles of women and single mothers living in these communities. Jeannette Rankin became a strong, natural advocate for giving women a national voice through the right to vote.

Remarkably, Jeannette Rankin was elected to Congress when women still did not have the right to vote. The 19th Amendment was passed 3 months after she left Congress. As Rankin herself put it, "We're half the people; we should be half the Congress."

Today, we must continue to honor her work and legacy. With the ongoing budget crisis in mind, it is imperative that we redouble our efforts, as she would have, to come to a solution and to take the lesson of Jeannette Rankin, to fight for women and the poor who are disproportionately affected by sequestration, and to fight for them as Jeannette Rankin fought for them so hard.

CLEAN ENERGY AND EXTREME WEATHER

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the climate is changing. Climate change is very, very real. You only have to look at the superstorms we have had, Sandy and others, and the \$180 billion of destruction that has been wrought upon us from the environment just over the last 2 years.

The climate is changing, and there's something we can do about it. In fact, there's something this House of Representatives must do about it, and that is to move forcefully, directly, and aggressively to clean energy policies. We ought to be subsidizing those clean energy systems that are out there—solar and wind.

In my own district in Solano County, we have one of the biggest wind farms. My own history goes back to 1978, when I authored legislation for State tax credits. We can and we must deal with climate change, and we can do it with clean energy policies.

SPORTSMANSHIP ON DISPLAY IN EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL RIVALRY

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mitchell

Marcus, Jonathon Montanez, and the Franklin and Coronado High School basketball teams in El Paso, Texas.

Few teams have a more contentious rivalry than these two schools, who compete to claim the title: Pride of the Westside. So it was a hometown sports miracle when these rivals came together last month to support Mitchell Marcus, a special-needs student who was the Coronado basketball team manager.

With 90 seconds left in the season's final game, Coach Peter Morales put Mitchell in the game to fulfill his dream of making a basket. However, after a few missed shots, Mitchell's opportunity seemed lost. But with seconds left in the game, rival Franklin player Jonathon Montanez passed the ball to Mitchell, and he scored the final basket as the clock hit zero. Fans stormed the court to carry Mitchell on their shoulders, chanting his name.

It is a moment now famous in El Paso and around the world because it shows that character and compassion can transcend even the bitterest rivalries.

□ 1910

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERGEANT GARY MORALES

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

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant Gary Morales, who was laid to rest today after being killed in the line of duty at the age of 35 last Thursday in Fort Pierce, Florida. Sergeant Morales was a 12-year veteran with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office and also proudly served our country as a member of the United States Air Force.

There has been an outpouring of support in the wake of the shooting, with the community coming together to support his wife, Holly, and their two young daughters, Brooklyn and Jordan. The community has also come together to share fond memories of a man that everyone remembers as being an outstanding officer with a bright future and someone who always went above and beyond to help others. It is clear that Sergeant Morales not only dedicated his life to service, but was a true leader and a selfless hero.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Gary Morales dedicated his life to serving his community and his country. I extend my most heartfelt condolences to the Morales family and his extended family at the sheriff's office during these most difficult times. I am humbled to recognize him here today.

GOP FRESHMAN CLASS HOUR: THE SECOND AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the

gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MESSER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as part of the second in a series of Special Orders put on by the newly elected freshman Republican caucus. Our first was on spending; today we rise to speak on the Second Amendment.

I have participated, in the first 50 days of my service here in this Chamber, in 19 public events throughout the Sixth District of Indiana—coffees, meetings with constituents, the public, folks who vote to send us here—and I can tell you in every one of those events people have two topics top of mind: they're focused on spending; they're focused on the sequester. They're tired of the Federal Government that continues to spend money that we don't have, and they want the government to follow the principle that every American family does, which is, you don't spend money unless you have money to spend. But the second topic that I hear everywhere that I go is the Second Amendment and the importance of making sure that that bedrock principle of American liberty is protected.

We all know of the tragic events that have occurred in recent months here in America—obviously the Connecticut tragedy being foremost on top of the mind. I want to make clear in my comments, as I do all throughout my district, that as a Nation we are heartbroken by tragedies like that when they occur. As a Nation, we mourn and weep with the families that had to deal with those tragedies. But as sad and tragic as those circumstances are, we cannot allow those events to be an excuse to undercut the Second Amendment and all that it means for liberty in this Nation.

There are opportunities to make a difference for public safety in this debate. It is time for a national conversation about mental health because the common denominator in every one of these crimes is that the perpetrator is someone who is mentally ill.

There are opportunities to do more on school security, and I'm hopeful that we will be able to work through those as we move forward. But this much must be made clear: gun bans don't work. They are only effective at preventing law-abiding citizens from having guns because the criminals and mentally deranged that commit these crimes don't care about the fact that there is a law that would have them not have a gun. To blame a gun for a