

Ph.D. and serve as an engineer at NASA's Langley Research Center. His contributions to the U.S. space race in the 1960s were vital to NASA's successful Moon landing.

He is best known for his advocacy of lunar orbit rendezvous, the crucial mission design decision that proved essential to carry the Apollo crew safely to the Moon and back in 1969. Dr. Houbolt, along with several of his colleagues at Langley, became convinced that this relatively obscure technique was the only feasible way to land on the Moon by the end of the decade.

Initially, NASA rejected Dr. Houbolt's plan for being too complicated and risky, but like the world's greatest innovators, Dr. Houbolt didn't let initial failure stop him. Despite opposition from NASA and from leading rocket scientists at the time, Dr. Houbolt tenaciously advocated for lunar orbit rendezvous.

To convince the decisionmakers at NASA to consider his plan, Dr. Houbolt took the bold step of writing a letter directly to the associate administrator of NASA—at the time a clear breach of protocol. “Do we want to go to the Moon or not?” asked Dr. Houbolt. Because of his tenacity, NASA gave his idea another chance and eventually approved it.

Now, John Houbolt won that argument, despite having had all the political winds blowing against him, because he had fundamental engineering reality on his side. It was simply not possible, with the engines and boosters that could plausibly be developed in the 1960s, to launch a payload that would allow a manned rocket to land in its entirety on the Moon, including all of the fuel necessary to return to the Earth. But, as John Houbolt pointed out, if you left the fuel for the return trip in lunar orbit and rendezvoused with the command module after making the lunar landing, then a single Saturn booster, already under design at the Marshall Space Flight Center, could do the job.

NASA Administrator George Low later said of this pivotal moment:

It is my strongly held opinion that without the lunar rendezvous mode, Apollo would not have succeeded; and without John Houbolt's letter, we might not have chosen the lunar orbit rendezvous mode.

The lunar rendezvous mode has been described by space historians as “Langley's most important contribution to the Apollo program” and is widely credited for allowing the United States to accomplish the goal President John F. Kennedy set out in 1961, to land a man on the Moon by the end of the decade.

Dr. Houbolt received numerous awards for his work, including NASA's Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering and was the first recipient of Joliet Junior College's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Additionally, the Joliet Historical Museum is home to a permanent ex-

hibit dedicated to Dr. Houbolt and to his family, titled, “The Soaring Achievements of John C. Houbolt.” They have now declared July 20, 2014, the 45th anniversary of the Moon landing, as Houbolt Family Day at the museum. The museum will be open free to the public each July 20 to encourage families to learn about Joliet's local contribution to one of humankind's greatest scientific achievements.

Dr. Houbolt retired after a distinguished career in 1985. He and his family remained noted philanthropists and supporters of the community of Joliet, touching countless individuals with their generosity.

Dr. Houbolt passed away on April 15, 2014, at the age of 95. His life is an example of the impact that a determined, intelligent, and passionate individual can have. I rise today to remember Dr. Houbolt for his outstanding contributions to American science and engineering.

In a society where we seem to celebrate mainly the accomplishments of our heroes in sports and entertainment, as well as those who ride our rockets off into space, it is important also to celebrate the heroes of science and engineering who make the modern world possible.

CHICAGO'S GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, April was a particularly violent month in the city of Chicago. Thirty-two people were shot and killed in the city, 19 of them under the age of 25.

You have heard me talk before about the epidemic of gun violence, about how urban violence in cities like Chicago is robbing us of a generation. But nothing illustrates how our gun violence permeates everyday life in Chicago more than the stories of the deaths of those 19 young people.

They, like scores of teens and young adults across the city, were stalked by gun violence. It followed them home from school, creeping up on their porches or tapping on their car windows; and, in an instant, an everyday activity became an unspeakable tragedy.

Jordan Harris, 24, was shot during a house party.

Michael Flournoy, 17, was shot in front of a neighborhood church.

Adrian Soto, 17, shot on a sidewalk.

Gakirah Barnes, 17, shot in the street.

Andres Cervantes, 22, shot while sitting in a car.

Joshua Martinez, 20, shot on a front porch.

Keno Glass, 16, shot in a drive-by shooting while on spring break.

Trevolus Pickett, 20, shot in a gangway.

Nicholas Ramirez, 19, chased and shot while he was driving.

Anthony Bankhead, 18, and Jordan Means, 16, shot in an apartment during an argument.

Timmy Bermudez, 19, shot while driving in an ambush on Easter Sunday.

Quinton Jackson, 22, shot in a building hallway.

Darius Kelly, 22, shot in a drive-by.

Demario Collins, 19, shot while sitting in a car.

Martavarian Emery, 21, shot from outside while standing in a kitchen.

Jaquez Williams, 17, shot on a sidewalk.

Cindy Bahena, 21, shot while riding in the backseat of a car.

And then there is Endia Martin, a 14-year-old girl who was shot and killed last week by another 14-year-old girl in a dispute over a boy.

Endia, a high school freshman and an honor student, and the 14-year-old suspect, an honor student, friends since elementary school, had been feuding on Facebook. After school last week, the teen suspect confronted Endia with a gun. That gun, a .38 caliber revolver, went from a local gun shop popular with straw purchasers to a man who resold the gun illegally and falsely reported it as stolen. From there, it made its way to a 25-year-old man who gave the gun to his niece, the 14-year-old suspect.

The girl, standing in a crowd of onlookers and instigators, drew the gun from her waistband and pulled the trigger. The gun actually malfunctioned. She handed it to someone in the crowd who fixed it and handed it back to her before she fired again, hitting Endia in the back and another teen in the arm.

This shooting painfully underscores the need for commonsense gun reforms, like cracking down on straw purchasers and better tracking gun sales to curtail illegal trafficking. There were many opportunities along the journey of that .38 caliber revolver to save Endia's life.

The shooting also spotlights the need for better social supports, greater accountability within our families and communities, and increased responsibility for the welfare of our children.

Losing a bright light like Endia is a tragedy, but so is the baby-faced accused killer sitting in juvenile lockup right now, the product of a community of accomplices who encouraged one child to kill another. As a society, we failed both girls. We have failed to provide Endia with a safe community she deserved, and we failed to teach her killer to value her own life, much less anyone else's.

Preventing senseless killings like this requires a combination of legislative initiatives and community action. We in Congress must do our part to stop the bloodshed by passing commonsense gun legislation. We must also do more to support programs on the ground that provide our young people with alternatives to violence. It is a moral imperative we can no longer ignore.

Before I go, I would like to pay tribute to Leonore Draper, a beloved and dedicated gun violence prevention advocate in Chicago who herself was

killed last week in a possible drive-by shooting. Leonore was headed home from an antiviolenace charity fundraiser she helped organize when she was shot and killed. What a horrible irony.

Leonore devoted her life to ending the violence on Chicago's streets. Her killing rattled the city and her fellow antiviolenace advocates who are determined to continue to work to stop the shootings that claimed her and young Endia. Both Leonore and Endia were buried on Monday. Please do not let their deaths be in vain.

To my colleagues, it is past time that we took action.

COMMEMORATING GROUNDBREAKING FOR APSAALOOKE WARRIORS APARTMENT COMPLEX

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, today the Crow tribe will break ground on the Apsaalooke Warriors Apartment Complex, a 15-room complex that will serve the homeless veterans of the Crow Reservation.

The Crow Reservation is home to more than 400 veterans, and far too many are without a home to call their own. Unfortunately, this struggle goes largely unseen. As Crow Vice Chairman Dana Wilson has said:

Homelessness is invisible because the Crow always take care of each other. It is not uncommon to see 10 to 20 people living in a home.

I am grateful to see the Crow Tribe's commitment to addressing this problem and giving our warriors a home of their own.

I also want to thank Vice Secretary Shawn Backbone, Vice Chairman Dana Wilson, Secretary AJ Not Afraid, and the director of Crow Veterans Affairs, Paul Little Light, for their efforts to make this project a reality and to serve Crow veterans. Your work is deeply appreciated.

□ 1045

STUDENT LOAN REFINANCING

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation that I filed in the House this week and Senator ELIZABETH WARREN filed in the Senate. It would enable tens of millions of students, parents, and families to responsibly refinance their student loans.

More and more, constituents are calling, they are emailing, and even approaching me on the street to share their stories of how they are buried in student loan debt. This debt is not only causing them to put on hold life decisions, such as moving out of their parents' house or buying a car or purchasing a home and getting married, but it is also leading some to question

whether or not they should even enroll in college or to consider dropping out because of the pure shock factor of these looming college loans.

A young woman from Boxford, Massachusetts, wrote recently. She said to me:

I pay more than the minimum balance every month. I sacrifice daily for my loans. I live at home and have a 50-minute commute to work every day because I cannot afford to live on my own or even with roommates. I cannot have the dreams that I have dreamed all my life. I am 23, and I am already telling myself that I can't own a house, that I will probably never have children because I can't afford to bring them into the world and take care of them when I can't even afford to live myself. That is what I live with every day, the anger, the depression, and the disbelief that I am forever stuck.

Parents are calling and writing me about the anxiety and concern they have about the debt their sons and daughters have accumulated. Some parents have even delayed their retirement or made early withdrawals from their 401(k) just to help their children's student debt problem.

A mother from Middleton, Massachusetts, wrote to me and said:

I have two children with multiple student loans. It is difficult enough to graduate, find a job in the field they desire and to pay loans, rent, and bills, et cetera. Please do all that you can to make sure rates are not increased. My children may never afford to buy a house and live the American Dream because of college student loan debt.

Mr. Speaker, these are just two examples in my district. There are millions of others just like them throughout this country.

Outstanding student loans now total more than \$1.2 trillion, surpassing total credit card debt. An estimated 71 percent of college seniors had debt in 2012, with an average outstanding debt of \$29,400 for those who borrowed to get a bachelor's degree.

Last year, Congress sought to address the issue of student loan rates, but I and several others believed that final bill didn't go far enough. One of the deficiencies was that it only applied to new student debt. It did nothing for the nearly 40 million Americans with existing student debts.

Our bill simply rights this wrong and simply gives students the opportunity to refinance their loan debt at the same low rate being offered to new borrowers in the student loan program. Homeowners and businesses are often able to refinance their debts. Shouldn't student borrowers be able to do the same? We certainly think so.

Our legislation is also deficit-neutral and paid for by implementing the so-called Buffett rule, which holds millionaires and billionaires accountable to pay their fair share in taxes.

Student loan debt is a crisis all throughout our country. It is making a generation of Americans feel like they are "forever stuck," in the words of my constituent.

But if the moral imperative isn't enough to act, we should be mindful of

the benefits to the economy as a whole for allowing students to refinance their loans. The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service produced an analysis of our bill indicating that certain borrowers could save thousands of dollars. This is a savings that no doubt would be invested back into the economy.

Last year, the Center for American Progress estimated that the refinancing of just Federal student loans would have pumped \$21 billion into the economy.

Mr. Speaker, our bill will benefit millions of students and their families, and it will boost our economy. It deserves the immediate action of this House.

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. 3627. An act to require the Attorney General to report on State law penalties for certain child abusers, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Lieutenant Commander Stephen Coates, Chaplain, United States Navy, Office of the Chaplain of the Marine Corps, Greenville, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign Lord, the sound of this corporate prayer is as nothing compared to the clarion call of Your divine voice—rolling thunders of justice, resounding echoes of mercy, redemptive whispers of grace, calm assurances of comfort, promising songs of hope.

Like Your clear voice, may all words spoken in this Chamber today accurately reflect the fidelity of honest conversations between Members, the brutal wonder of free exchange amid volitional minds, the compassion of sincere interactions with constituents known by name and place, the hallowedness of solitary, bended-knee utterances known only to You, and the sacred thoughtfulness incumbent upon persons of privilege vested with the responsibility to weigh the consequences of matters temporal in light of the gravity of matters eternal.

May the same purity of passion that stirred these willing servants to seek