

CHARLESTON MASSACRE
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the victims and survivors of the Emanuel AME Church massacre in Charleston, South Carolina, last year. This was a heinous crime and the response of the families and community has been even more deeply impactful.

As a longtime AME congregant, a former resident of Charleston and longtime Representative of the Holy City in the U.S. House, I have a deep and abiding connection to that community. The victims of that horrific crime were my friends, neighbors and constituents. Their deaths pained me in profound and personal ways and the wounds to our community will take time to heal.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of June 17, 2015, my friend Reverend Clementa Pinckney left his service in the state senate to travel to Charleston to conduct his other kind of service, that of tending his flock at Mother Emanuel AME Church's regular Wednesday night Bible study. Rev. Pinckney was a tremendous leader in our community. Several weeks prior to that night, I had been with Rev. Pinckney at a service in North Charleston after the police shooting of an unarmed black man, Walter Scott. Rev. Pinckney's ministry at that event made a tremendous difference in defusing a very tense time and helped restore calm and allow the local authorities to exert justice on a most unjust situation.

Into that Bible study entered an uninvited outsider. Though he was a stranger, he was embraced by the worshippers who welcomed him into their weekly exploration of their faith. Yet that hate-filled young man shunned their neighborly embrace and conducted an act of violence so heinous the horror has been immeasurable.

Our nation has long had a common sense policy of background checks for prospective gun buyers. Unfortunately, that law has a glitch in it that allows a gun purchase after three business days, even if the background check is not complete, and tragically this shooter was able to purchase the gun due to an error in the paperwork. I have introduced legislation to close this Charleston Loophole in federal law once and for all. This common sense fix will ensure that background checks are completed before gun purchases are allowed.

I have also been pleased to support the request of the Medical University of South Carolina for federal funds to support the community, and last week the Department of Justice released a grant of more than \$3.5 million to support that work. I am pleased that the Department has awarded this grant to help MUSC and their partners, the City of Charleston and other local governments deal with the continuing needs in the community as we approach the first anniversary of this horrible chapter in our lives. I want to thank Attorney General Loretta Lynch, for expediting this award, and all of my colleagues in the South Carolina congressional delegation for joining me in supporting MUSC's request.

I have been extremely proud of the resilience and compassion shown by the people of

Charleston and South Carolina following the horrific attack at Mother Emanuel on June 17 last year. The survivors of the attack and the families of the victims have been an inspiration to their communities, our state and the whole nation. While the Charleston community has rallied together, as we approach the first anniversary of the Emanuel AME church massacre, we must stay vigilant and continue providing the proper support for the survivors and victims.

COMMEMORATING LGBTQ PRIDE
MONTH AND MOURNING THE
LIVES LOST IN THE ORLANDO
SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Pride Month 2016, which celebrates the remarkable achievements and progress made by LGBTQ Movement in extending the promise of America to LGBTQ persons over the last 47 years since the Stonewall Uprising on June 28, 1969 in the Greenwich Village section of New York City.

As hard as it is to believe, in 1969 homosexuality was still classified as a mental disorder by the American Psychiatric Association, gay men and lesbian women received almost universal moral condemnation from mainstream religions, and the most intimate expression of love and human connection between gay or lesbian persons was regarded as a criminal act punishable by imprisonment.

Today, marriage equality is the law of the land, the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has been rescinded, and LGBTQ persons today are serving the communities and our nation in every field of human endeavor, as full members of the American community.

Yet for all we have to celebrate and cheer, our happiness over the progress made to date is tempered by the heavy sadness we feel as we mourn the loss of 49 innocent persons who were killed and the 53 persons injured in the horrific mass shooting at Pulse, a popular and welcoming nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

This act of unspeakable horror, which was at once both a terrorist attack and a hate crime, represents the deadliest mass shooting in the American history and the nation's worst terror attack since 9/11.

The Pulse Nightclub in Orlando was a community gathering place offering fellowship, sanctuary, and refuge; a place where men and women met in fraternity and with the freedom to be their authentic selves.

Pulse was a safe space until June 12, 2016, when it was defiled by a gunman who used an AR-15 assault rifle to murder 49 people and wound 53 others.

Mr. Speaker, the struggle for equality and dignity for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) community is a struggle each of those individual communities have faced.

Pride Month was established to recognize the collective progress of love's triumph over hate.

Tempered by remorse, today we remember those who were in the struggle; we honor their memory and the resilience of the LGBTQ community.

The hearts and spirits of the fallen breathe new life into the valiant stars and stripes that continue to wave.

Let us remember the majestic words of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Notwithstanding the extraordinary progress we have made in the area of civil rights over the past several decades, LGBTQ Americans still face discrimination simply for being who they are.

There is still more work to do so long as it remains true that LGBTQ persons can get married on Saturday and fired on Monday.

Our commitment to combatting discrimination against the LGBTQ community must not stop at our borders; the fair treatment of all people must always be a cornerstone of American diplomacy.

We must make defending and promoting the human rights of LGBTQ individuals a priority in our engagements across the globe.

This commitment must be based upon the ideal that all people are created equal and deserve to be treated fairly with respect.

As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated in her International Human Rights Day Address in Geneva on December 6, 2011:

"Like being a woman, like being a racial, religious, tribal, or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights."

Mr. Speaker, my congressional district is home to many remarkable members of the LGBTQ community who, day in and day out, work alongside their American brothers and sisters to make our country better in every sector of the economy including the arts, sciences, professions, and as teachers and service members defending our country.

Leaders such as Jason Black, Director of Public Health Services for Legacy Community Health Services, who has for decades been tireless in his efforts to remove the stigma associated with people living with HIV and AIDS and to increase the availability of care for marginalized communities.

Persons like Fran Watson, Esq. the first African American female President of Houston's GLBT Political Caucus, who works tirelessly to ensure that the LGBTQ community fully participates in our democracy and its interests are seriously considered.

Organizations such as Gamma Mu Phi and Delta Phi Upsilon Fraternities; Houston GLBT Political Caucus; Stonewall Democrats and Stonewall Young Democrats; Legacy Community Health; The Montrose Center; Houston Area Community Services; AIDS Foundation Houston; Houston Splash; and LGBTQ friendly organizations that work to empower Americans to live their truths.

Freedom is not free and the fight to realize the promise of America for every American continues.

I commend the courage of the millions quietly toiling in the vineyards to make this happen.

Mr. Speaker, today I am reminded of the classic ballad, "Stand By Me," by the legendary Ben E. King:

"When the night has come,
and the land is dark,
and the moon
is the only light we'll see;
No, I won't be afraid.

Oh, I won't be afraid.
Just as long as you stand,
stand by me!"

America is stronger when its people stand together; all of the people that make up the rich and wondrous tapestry of our country, including the members of our LGBTQ communities.

Mr. Speaker, in honoring the lives lost in the Orlando tragedy, it is important that we say and remember the names of the loved and lost like Shane Evan Tomlinson, who was 33 years old and beloved by all who knew him; an amazing young man who captivated the hearts of so many with his angelic voice and charisma.

And there were so many more:
Stanley Almodovar III, 23 years old,
Amanda Alvear, 25 years old,
Oscar A Aracena-Montero, 26 years old,
Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33 years old,
Antonio Davon Brown, 29 years old,
Darryl Roman Burt II, 29 years old,
Angel L. Candelario-Padro, 28 years old,
Juan Chevez-Martinez, 25 years old,
Luis Daniel Conde, 39 years old,
Cory James Connell, 21 years old,
Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25 years old,
Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32 years old,
Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez, 31 years old,
Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25 years old,
Mercedes Marisol Flores, 26 years old,
Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz, 22 years old,
Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22 years old,
Paul Terrell Henry, 41 years old,
Frank Hernandez, 27 years old,
Miguel Angel Honorato, 30 years old,
Javier Jorge-Reyes, 40 years old,
Jason Benjamin Josaphat, 19 years old,
Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30 years old,
Anthony Luis Laureanodisla, 25 years old,
Christopher Andrew Leinonen, 32 years old,
Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21 years old,
Brenda Lee Marquez McCool, 49 years old,
Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25 years old,
Kimberly Morris, 37 years old,
Akyra Monet Murray, 18 years old,
Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo, 20 years old,
Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez, 25 years old,
Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36 years old,
Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32 years old,
Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35 years old,
Enrique L. Rios, Jr., 25 years old,
Jean C. Nives Rodriguez, 27 years old,
Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35 years old,
Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24 years old,
Ylmary Rodriguez Solivan, 24 years old,
Edward Sotomayor Jr., 34 years old,
Shane Evan Tomlinson, 33 years old,
Martin Benitez Torres, 33 years old,
Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega, 24 years old,
Juan P. Rivera Velazquez, 37 years old,
Luis S. Vielma, 22 years old,
Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez, 50 years old,
Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37 years old,
Jerald Arthur Wright, 31 years old.

Maya Angelou said: "Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope."

And let me add that right now justice requires us to do two things.

First, Congress needs to pass H.R. 3185, the "Equality Act of 2015," to write into the

books of law the same protections for our LGBTQ brothers and sisters that other Americans have long enjoyed.

Second, Congress must pass H.R. 4269, the "Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2015," to restore the ban on assault weapons so that school children, church going and community members can live their lives free of the fear of falling victim to gun violence.

IN HONOR OF THE WOOD FAMILY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the loving generosity of a family in my district, Jaoni and Gabriel Wood. Jaoni and Gabriel were recently named Foster Parents of the Year for Loudoun County for their steadfast guardianship of a pair of siblings who needed a home.

Gabriel and Jaoni had two biological children of their own, ages 11 and 9, and raised them in a warm and loving home in Loudoun County, Virginia. They saw at-risk families and children who have been affected by traumatic incidents and took it upon themselves to change their lives for the better. Gabriel and Jaoni created an adoption ministry at the Purcellville Baptist Church in Loudoun County with the goal of teaching the community ways they can serve and help children in need.

The Wood family undertook the challenge of fostering a 7 year old boy and his 4 year old sister. After caring for them for nearly three years, the Jaoni and Gabriel plan on welcoming the two children permanently into their family. While the years have surely been filled with joyous moments, it has not always been easy. Gabriel and Jaoni have spent countless hours helping the newest members of their family feel welcome, while also learning themselves how to handle the emotional and physical needs of the siblings. By opening their home and their hearts, Gabriel and Jaoni have demonstrated the most sincere form of love possible.

According to the Virginia Department of Social Services, as of 2016 there are more than 5,000 children who are in foster care in the Commonwealth of Virginia and over sixty percent of those children live in a non-relative home. The Wood family wants all of these children to succeed in the face of these hardships and it cannot be overstated the incredible impact they make on their lives, both through the personal foster care they provide and through the services they have at the Purcellville Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Jaoni and Gabriel Wood for their service to the children of our community and wishing them all the best as they raise their new family and continue to help those in need.

JERRY SLOAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Jerry Sloan for receiving the

2016 Chuck Daly Lifetime Achievement Award. Jerry was born and raised outside of McLeansboro, Illinois, where he attended high school and played basketball. He graduated as an all-state player from McLeansboro High School in 1960.

The Baltimore Bullets selected Jerry in the 1965 NBA draft, and later traded him to the Chicago Bulls. He retired as a player in 1976. Jerry then was hired on as an assistant coach by the Bulls, and in 1979 he was promoted to head coach. He would serve that position for three years before moving to Utah as an assistant coach for the Utah Jazz. He stayed in that position for four years and then became the head coach in the 1988–1989 season. Jerry coached the Jazz for twenty-three seasons, with two appearances in the NBA finals.

Sloan's win-loss record of 1,221–803, placed him third all-time in NBA wins at the time he retired in 2011. He coached the Jazz to sixteen consecutive winning seasons and nineteen playoff appearances. His years coaching the Jazz are also the most years a coach has stayed with one team. He is among only nine coaches who have surpassed 1,000 victories and one of two who have won 1,000 with one team.

The Chuck Daly Lifetime Achievement Award honors the memory of Hall of Famer Chuck Daly, given by the NBA to a coach who has spent a lifetime in basketball and has a "standard of integrity, competitive excellence and tireless promotion" of the game. I offer my congratulations to Jerry Sloan on his outstanding achievement, and I wish him the best in retirement.

HONORING LYMAN ORCHARDS AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 275TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the community of Middlefield, Connecticut in extending my congratulations to the Lyman family as they mark the 275th Anniversary of Lyman Orchards—a very special milestone for this wonderful community treasure.

The story of Lyman Orchards begins in 1741 when John and Hope Lyman purchased thirty-seven acres of land and started the family farm. Eight generations later, Lyman Orchards remains family-run and is, in fact, the 12th oldest family run business still in operation in the United States.

Over its 275-year history, Lyman Orchards has grown and today encompasses over 1,100 acres of land where it produces over one hundred varieties of fruit and is home to the Apple Barrel where shoppers can purchase produce from the farm as well as products created by that produce like their famous high-top apple pie, cider donuts, and fresh apple cider. Families can enjoy the "pick-your-own" opportunities, a business model that Lyman Orchards was the first to introduce in 1966. From apples and pumpkins in the fall to strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries in the early summer and peaches, nectarines, and pears in the late summer, you can pick your own favorites nearly all year long.