

While we recognize that assault weapon legislation will not stop all assault weapon crime, statistics prove that we can dry up the supply of these guns, making them less accessible to criminals. We urge you to listen to the American public and to the law enforcement community and support a ban on the further manufacture of these weapons.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD.
JIMMY CARTER.
RONALD REAGAN.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. That same year, I voted for a Federal Assault Weapons Ban signed into law by President Clinton that also banned massacre-sized magazines. Unfortunately, this ban expired in 2004, and Congress, under pressure from the NRA, has since refused to reauthorize it, even when facts show that reauthorizing it would save lives.

It should come as no surprise that, of the 10 mass shooting incidents in the United States, 7 of them involved the use of an assault-style rifle.

That is why I fully and wholeheartedly support the commonsense proposal to reinstate a Federal ban on the sale and manufacture of assault weapons and massacre-sized magazines, and that is why so many Members of Congress have introduced—on both sides of the aisle—commonsense gun reform bills.

And let's be clear. These measures are not some kind of assault on Second Amendment freedoms for hunters or those who wish to have a gun for self-protection. The assault ban is a limited, commonsense measure to help keep people safe.

It is time for us to stand up together and to pass these commonsense bills because this time #WeAreAllOrlando.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND IMPACT OF SMALL BUSINESSES ON OUR NATION'S ECONOMY

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance and the impact that small businesses have on our Nation's economy.

Last month, we celebrated National Small Business Week in order to recognize the hard work and dedication of the estimated 28 million small-business owners who provided 48 percent of the private sector job workforce here in the United States while also representing 99.7 percent of all businesses with employees.

It is without a doubt that small businesses are the backbone of our Nation's economy. I greatly appreciate each and every small-business owner across this country who devotes their time, their passion, and their financial resources to ensure that small businesses are successful. For these individuals, Small Business Week is every week of the year.

As a former small-business owner of 20 years, I understand what it takes to

build a successful small business while ensuring that our customers receive the products and service they expect and our employees are provided for.

It wasn't always easy as a small-business owner, but having the opportunity to employ hundreds of employees over the years is an experience I would never trade.

Over the last 17 months, I have had the great privilege of touring numerous small businesses within my district, where I have had the opportunity to speak to the employees that see firsthand what business does as it contributes to our economy.

From the small-business barber shop to a tortilla chip factory, it has always amazed me to see the enthusiasm that exists when the small-business owners work side-by-side with their employees. It is for this reason that small businesses are the backbone of our economy.

It is my honor to recognize outstanding individuals who received the award on May 4 in Las Vegas during the 2016 SBA Small Business Award luncheon. These individuals serve their community as a current small-business owner or provide services for small businesses.

Receiving the Small Business Person of the Year Award was Bradley Burdsall, owner of six restaurants in southern Nevada named The Egg Works and the Egg & I, with his newest location just recently opening in Nevada's Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. Burdsall's company has seen tremendous growth and expansion over the past 18 years, including being featured in USA Today and on the Food Network. I congratulate Bradley Burdsall on being awarded the 2016 SBA Small Business of the Year for Nevada.

Receiving the Veteran Owned Business of the Year award was Robert D. Daniel, the owner of PrideStaff Las Vegas. Prior to starting the PrideStaff Las Vegas location, Mr. Daniel spent 30 years in the field of employee management, including holding executive positions with IBM, Fuji USA, Western Electronics, and MicronPC.

With this valuable managerial experience along with his service in the United States Air Force and as a Vietnam veteran, Mr. Daniel has built a company that greatly benefits southern Nevada by providing businesses with temporary employees. I congratulate Robert D. Daniel on being awarded the 2016 SBA Veteran Owned Business of the Year for Nevada.

Receiving the Small Business Advocate Lifetime Achievement Award was Bob Cushman, who has volunteered his time as a SCORE Las Vegas counselor and a mentor since 1998. With decades of experience, Mr. Cushman has used his invaluable knowledge to counsel 3,000 small businesses in southern Nevada.

Mr. Cushman's dedication to the small business community has been a valuable asset to southern Nevada, so I

congratulate Mr. Cushman on being awarded the 2016 SBA Small Business Advocate Lifetime Achievement Award.

Receiving the Women's Business Advocate of the Year was Leanna Jenkins, director of the Nevada Women's Business Center. Ms. Jenkins has spent years working in the small business community to provide small-business owners with the educational and financial resources necessary to succeed, especially for women- and minority-owned businesses.

Ms. Jenkins has made a tremendous impact within the small-business community of southern Nevada, so I congratulate Ms. Leanna Jenkins for being awarded the 2016 SBA Women's Business Advocate of the Year Award for Nevada.

Again, I would like to thank these award winners and all small-business owners for what they do on a daily basis to provide their employees with a job, their customers with a great product or service, and contribute to the American economy. Small businesses are the true economic engines of this country.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is always a preeminent privilege to stand in the well of the Congress of the United States of America. I never take for granted the opportunity that has been afforded me by my constituents, as their representative, to be here and stand and speak on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this day is Flag Day. It is the day that the flag was adopted, June 14, 1777, and I am honored tonight to make additional comments about Flag Day. But this is a day that we honor the flag of the United States of America.

On this day when we will honor the flag of the United States of America, this evening, after the first votes, we will also bring to the floor the LGBTQ Pride Month resolution. We are bringing this resolution to the floor, notwithstanding things that have occurred, because we would not want the dastardly deeds of one to prevent us from commemorating the accomplishments of the many.

The resolution will be brought to the floor, and those Members of Congress who consider themselves allies of the LGBTQ community, please come. This will afford you an opportunity to speak of your concern and to express your love for the LGBTQ community. Allies of the community should come to the floor. This will be a great opportunity, and we ask that you preface your statements, let your preamble be "you are not alone."

This is an opportunity for those of us who are allies of the community to make it clear, perspicuously so, that this community is not alone; that they

have friends; that they have people who will stand with them, even in the darkest hour; even when they walk through the valley of the shadow of death, there are friends who will stand with them. They are not alone. Come to the floor, if you choose, and make your statements known.

I do this because I understand that this opportunity to stand here is not something that I enjoy because I am so smart. There are people who lived and some who died so that I might stand in the well of the Congress of the United States of America on this day.

And because they did, it is worthy of mentioning that there were people other than African Americans who participated in my liberation. Schwerner and Goodman died fighting for the rights of African Americans. They were not Black.

John Shillady died in Austin, Texas, a field marshal for the NAACP. He was not Black.

When Rosa Parks went to jail, Virginia Durr and her husband, attorney Clifford Durr, along with Mr. Nixon, who was the then-president of the NAACP, posted her bail. Mr. Nixon was African American; the Durrs were not.

So it is important for those of us who have benefited from the goodness, the goodwill of others, to pay that debt we owe. This is an opportunity to make another installment on the debt that we owe as a result of others standing up for us. We were not alone, and the LGBTQ community should not be alone and is not alone.

So, tonight, we invite Members to come to the floor and to preface your statements with "you are not alone" and to let people know that you stand with the community in this time of great sadness, of great sadness.

But, also, speak of some of the good things that have occurred. We can talk of how the Supreme Court has made a significant difference, not only for this time but for all time, for people, because the Constitution of the United States was not written for Democrats or Republicans. It wasn't written for conservatives or liberals. It wasn't written for people of a certain hue. It wasn't written for people of a certain religion. It was written for the people of the United States of America, and that includes the LGBTQ community.

I thank you for the time. This is a to-be-continued moment. First hour after votes, to be continued.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. And I pledge allegiance to the flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all, and that includes the LGBTQ community.

CI REALIGNMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, when most folks hear or think about the In-

ternal Revenue Service, I am sure they probably think about the April 15 deadline. Maybe they even think about the prospects of an audit, or, in most cases, I imagine people are thinking about and wondering, you know, when is their tax refund going to be delivered?

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Or perhaps their minds might jump to the scandals that have plagued the IRS, from the targeting of conservative groups to the IRS' failures to keep track of employee emails. Whatever the case, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe most people would immediately associate the IRS as a Federal law enforcement agency. However, the IRS is, in fact, home to our Nation's sixth largest law enforcement agency. It is called the IRS Criminal Investigation, or CI, for short.

CI was originally known as the IRS Intelligence division, and it was formed in 1919 to combat widespread corruption and organized crime. A great example of that from the early days is the investigation and conviction of Al Capone.

Now, today, CI is solely responsible for the enforcement of criminal violations of our Nation's tax laws and shares jurisdiction over violations of money laundering and bank secrecy laws. In addition, CI has also become an indispensable tool used in the investigation of terror financing cases and works jointly with many of our other Federal law enforcement agencies.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was a United States attorney for a number of years, and I have had the privilege of working with many CI special agents and personally know the value of their unmatched financial investigatory abilities.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the IRS' mismanagement of CI and their inability to prioritize CI's needs has caused a troubling drop in the number of CI special agents and staff. This, in turn, has led to a reduction in the number of CI's investigations and convictions at a time when offenses such as identity theft, money laundering, tax fraud, and terror financing are all on the rise.

These resource decisions, along with an organizational and reporting structure at the IRS that is poorly suited to oversee a Federal law enforcement agency, have demonstrated that the IRS is ill-equipped to effectively support and manage CI.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, we need to be placing a premium on the world-class financial investigations CI carries out each day. This is why, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have recently introduced the CI Realignment Act. This legislation, which I am pleased is supported by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, will create a new Bureau of Criminal Investigation within the Department of the Treasury by transferring CI out of the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, this legislation is about law enforcement. It is about the dedicated personnel at CI

that work in offices across the country and, indeed, across the world.

While this House will continue to have discussions and consider necessary reforms and legislation to right the ship over at the IRS, the CI Realignment Act is concerned with creating a clear distinction between the civil IRS function and the Federal law enforcement agency charged with criminal enforcement of our Nation's laws.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, my legislation will remove CI from the bureaucracy of the scandal-ridden IRS and allow for an increased focus on law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the IRS urgently needs to address their shortfalls in many areas, from consumer service to data protection. Let's make certain that they do not further impede the critical work of our Nation's top financial investigators while they try to figure out how to run the IRS.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES ARMY

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on this day 241 years ago, the Congress adopted the American Continental Army. This Congress resolved to raise six companies of expert riflemen and to march and join the Army near Boston.

Our Army was born in war, and to this day, it has continued its service in the defense of American liberty. Our six companies have grown to over 1 million strong. Our All-Volunteer force continues to be the example around the world, producing an image of American idealism and vision and a culture of soldiers that fight for country, the Constitution, and their fellow man.

General George Washington, during one of the Army's first battles at the 1775 Siege of Boston, articulated how I feel about the Army: "Your exertions in the cause of freedom, guided by wisdom and animated by zeal and courage, have gained you the love and confidence of your grateful countrymen; and they look to you, who are experienced veterans, and trust that you will still be the guardians of America."

These past 241 years have tried and tested our Army, from the fields of France to the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. Today our soldiers are deployed in over 140 countries. Representing Fort Hood, I am aware that Fort Hood soldiers are deployed in Afghanistan and Korea in the defense of our American security. Every day I am reminded of what our men and women in uniform and their families do to protect what we hold special.

With all the focus on weapons, programs, and initiatives, it is easy to forget that the Army is about people. Looking to God, I am reminded of Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And