

human beings, such as the 49 individuals who were viciously killed in Orlando, Florida.

Instead, House Republicans brought us a brief moment of silence and then got back to business as usual. It is a shameless, shameful dereliction of duty, but it is what we have come to expect from this reckless Republican majority—and the American people deserve better.

□ 1215

REMEMBERING ENDY EKPANYA

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, there is great pain and agony in Pearland, Texas, and all across America. Pearland police officer Endy Ekpanya was killed in the line of duty while on patrol in Pearland. He was killed at 3:15 a.m. on Sunday. He died 45 minutes later at a hospital.

Endy was only 30 years old. He had been with the Pearland police force for less than a year. His fellow D squad officers said he was always eager to learn, and with that huge smile. Endy was the first Pearland policeman killed since 1973. As you can see, Endy leaves behind a wife and a young son.

Mr. Speaker, I will use my remaining time to say a silent prayer to honor Endy.

IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO DO ITS JOB

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again, the United States Congress observed a moment of silence for the victims of a mass shooting, this time in Orlando, Florida. Once again, many in this Chamber remain silent on stopping more of the same.

Nearly a third of the world's mass shootings occur right here in our country; and yet, this Congress, defying the wishes of our constituents, refused to take any reasonable steps to keep dangerous guns out of the wrong hands.

This Congress has refused to ban military grade assault rifles whose primary purpose is to kill as many people as possible at one time. This Congress refuses to close the loophole that lets criminals buy firearms online or at gun shows without a background check. And, most shockingly, this Congress is refusing to prevent those suspected of terrorism from buying weapons that could be used in the next attack.

This Congress offers lots of thoughts and sympathies when people are massacred by firearms, but no action to stop the carnage. It is time for this Congress to do its job before we have to say more prayers for innocent victims.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of our Virginia State parks. From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay, the Commonwealth boasts some of the most beautiful natural landscapes in the United States, and for the past 80 years, the Virginia State Parks have served as an avenue for families to enjoy the outdoors together.

Outdoor recreation is such an important part of our national heritage, and our 36 Virginia State parks have fostered that tradition by helping generations of Virginians explore and understand our natural resources. With more than 600 miles of trails and convenient access to Virginia's major waterways, our Virginia State parks offer no shortage of opportunities for Virginians to go places they have never been before.

I commend the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for their role in maintaining the Commonwealth's State parks and for preserving our lands in the public trust.

I thank Virginia State Parks for keeping our Commonwealth beautiful. I wish them a happy 80th anniversary and many, many more to come.

REMEMBERING TWO YOUNG MICHIGANDERS KILLED IN ORLANDO

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember two young Michiganders who tragically were among the 49 people who lost their lives in Orlando on Sunday.

Tevin Crosby, from Saginaw, Michigan, was just 25 years old. He was on a trip visiting family in North Carolina and went on to Florida to see some friends and some colleagues. He was a young businessowner. He was described as a rising star, according to his friends and his colleagues. An employee at his company told The Saginaw News that he was always smiling and always positive.

Michigan also lost Christopher "Drew" Leinonen, who was a native of Detroit. His mother, Christine, told ABC that her son established the gay-straight alliance at his high school and received a humanitarian award for his effort. Juan Ramon Guerrero, the man he planned to wed, was also killed.

My heart aches for Tevin and Drew's families and their loved ones and all those who were killed over the weekend. This was an act of terror against the LGBT community.

As our Nation heals from this tragedy, Congress must turn our country's grief into action. There is no place for weapons of war on the streets of Amer-

ica's cities, murdering our children. This Congress has it within its hands to act, and this Congress needs to act.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA CHARTER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America Charter. On June 15, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the law granting a national charter to the Boy Scouts of America, which had been incorporated 6 years earlier in 1910.

I spent more than four decades in scouting as a scoutmaster, Juniata Valley Boy Scouts Council executive board member and Council president. In my own scouting experience, I was honored to become one of just 2,000 people since 1969 to receive the national Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.

It was my experience in scouting that first sparked my interest in public service, in the vein of the Boy Scouts model, which urges us in part to do our duty to our country.

In 2013 there were more than 2.6 million members of the Boy Scouts of America. In a time which has in many ways been highlighted by a decline of volunteerism, I know that our Nation's future is in good hands with these young men and young ladies.

It is my hope that this wonderful organization continues to contribute to the lives of youth for generations to come.

SICK OF SILENCE

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, our country continues to grieve with Orlando and the LGBT community in the wake of the deadly shooting at the Pulse nightclub.

The American people are angry; they are anxious; they are afraid; and they have good reason to be. This is the deadliest in a long list of recent attacks. Yet, after each mass shooting, many of my Republican colleagues have stood in the way of efforts to protect Americans from the next one.

Monday night we held yet another moment of silence on the House floor. I have lost track of how many moments of silence we have had since I have been in Congress. Mr. Speaker, I am sick of silence.

Forty-nine people were murdered this weekend in Orlando, and that is not just a number. Those are 49 young men and women who had parents and boyfriends and girlfriends who loved them and whose lives will never be the same. Moments of silence are not enough to

honor these victims, and they do nothing to prevent future attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on you to allow us to vote on reinstating the assault weapons ban and legislation to prevent suspected terrorists from buying firearms.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE ORLANDO ATTACK

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we all know the facts from the Orlando attack, and they are absolutely heart-breaking. We know that the terrorist pledged his allegiance to ISIS before he carried out the assault and murder of 49 people.

We also know that we need to be supporting our law enforcement. What we are learning is that law enforcement, local law enforcement, is constrained by political correctness. They are constrained by lack of communication. They are constrained, and we have to understand that they are on the front lines in this fight. Congress must listen to the FBI, Homeland Security, and other law enforcement entities and give them the tools that they need to protect our communities.

This attack calls into question the assessment, threat assessment programs, the vetting, and the information sharing that is in place. The FBI twice investigated the Orlando shooter. This reveals vetting is nearly impossible. The vetting process being nearly impossible is one of the reasons that we need to halt the migration of Syrian refugees until a proper process is in place.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE SILENT

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, once again, our country has been shocked by a horrific act of gun violence, and, once again, the only real response from Congress has been a moment of silence.

Well, this is not the time to be silent. Congress needs to act, and Congress needs to act now.

This murderer at the Pulse nightclub of Orlando, who was once on the terror watch list, was free to walk into a store and purchase an assault weapon that could kill 49 people and wound 53 others. Today, someone inspired by ISIS, who was deemed too dangerous to even board a plane, could walk into a gun store to buy whatever weapon they want. That is outrageous. That is why we must pass the no fly, no buy legislation that would keep those on the terrorist watch list from buying lethal weapons.

Unless we act to finally keep the most dangerous weapons out of the

most dangerous hands, our moments of silence will become our legacy of silence.

RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, in June, a gay nightclub—what is supposed to be a safe place where the LGBT community can gather and be who they are—was targeted by violence and bigotry. That was 47 years ago in New York City. The Stonewall riots are considered the very beginning of the gay rights movement, and that is why we celebrate June as LGBT Pride Month, pride for progress made against fear, against HIV/AIDS, against violence, and against the silence that too often greets bigotry, including in this Chamber.

Here we stand today, so much progress, but still so far from true equality. And we see more hatred-fueled violence at a gay gathering place.

What do we do?

I know only because I have seen the path well worn by my LGBT brothers and sisters, whose resilience in the face of adversity inspires me. We organize, we fight for equality and against prejudice. We change the hearts and minds of those who have yet to embrace the fundamental American principle that all are created equal.

This Pride Month we stand up against bigotry and against the silence, and we do it proudly.

□ 1230

ORLANDO

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard repeatedly, this past weekend, Omar Mateen walked into a nightclub that had been a fixture of Orlando's LGBT community for over a decade and opened fire, killing 49 people and wounding dozens more.

This tragedy was many things. It was an act of terror and the deadliest mass shooting in American history. It was an attack targeting the LGBT community in what was meant to be a safe space on what was meant to be a night of celebration.

Information is still coming in about the perpetrator and his past, and we will continue to learn more in the days ahead. But we do know now that Mateen had been investigated by the FBI for possible terrorist ties and placed on the terrorist watch list. Despite this, he was able to pass a background check and legally purchase a gun.

There were other warning signs as well. He was described by coworkers and family as a violent and unstable

person with a history of domestic abuse. But the loophole by which suspected terrorists can purchase guns is something that we have the power to fix right now with one simple change. The vast majority of Americans agree with us: if you are too dangerous to ride on a plane, you are too dangerous to own a gun.

Let's fix this commonsense loophole.

ORLANDO SHOOTING

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House stood to bow our heads in a moment of silence for gun violence on the House floor for the 27th time since the horrific shooting of children at Sandy Hook Elementary; this time, for the unspeakable murders that took place in Orlando.

A moment of silence for gun violence; that is what we do. We have stood, and we have prayed.

One time, I stood up and said: Now, let's do something. We are not short of solutions.

The American people cannot believe that the Republicans have voted against a bill that says that people on the suspected terrorist watch list should not be able to buy guns. That is right. They would not support that law. They won't support a ban on assault weapons that have no other purpose than to kill people.

Enough is enough. That silence is a deafening silence. We cannot stand to do that anymore without taking real action.

CLOSE THE CHARLESTON LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I often quote Martin Luther King, Jr.'s iconic letter from the Birmingham City Jail when he wrote:

We are going to be made to repent not just for the hateful words and deeds of bad people, but for the appalling silence of good people.

Mr. Speaker, some very dastardly acts have been committed, one of which we will be commemorating the first anniversary of on Friday, June 17, when the people of Charleston, South Carolina, the State, and many across the Nation, will pause to commemorate the lives of nine people who were murdered and the three who survived because our gun laws allowed a young man to purchase a gun whose background check showed he should not have been allowed to purchase a gun. However, the loophole says if the background check is not completed in 3 days, you can still purchase the gun.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to close the Charleston loophole.