

May the words and deeds of this place reflect an earnest desire for justice, and may men and women in government build on the tradition of equity and truth that represents the noblest heritage of our people.

May Your blessing, O God, be with us this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COURTNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

FBI RECOMMENDATION NOT TO PROSECUTE

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, today FBI Director James Comey announced his recommendation not to prosecute Hillary Clinton. I am extremely disappointed with this decision. In fact, Mr. Comey said that it was extremely careless of Secretary Clinton to store public emails and classified emails on her server. There were 110 messages in 52 chains that contained information that was classified at the time, 8 of which were top secret, 36 secret, and 8 confidential.

We really need to protect our national security. The FBI Director talked about the word "intentionally." Well, if this had been defense information, some of which it may have been, the statute only requires criminal liability to show the form of gross negligence. I think extremely careless comes to gross negligence, and I encourage the FBI and prosecutors to continue to look at this and do what is right.

We need people in government who are not extremely careless. We need people who are careful.

COMMONSENSE LEGISLATION TO DISARM HATE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the horrific events in Orlando on June 12, an extraordinary group of Americans have come together calling for commonsense gun control legislation. The Veterans Coalition for Common Sense was formed, again, within hours, and among its ranks are General David Petraeus; General Stanley McChrystal; Admiral Thad Allen, the retired commandant of the Coast Guard; and General Michael Hayden, former head of the Air Force. The list goes on and on.

And why?

General Pete Chiarelli, the former vice chief of staff of the Army, stated it very clearly: "I have seen firsthand what weapons of war can do. There is no reason we cannot close the loopholes that allow these killing machines to fall into the hands of criminals, those who are mentally ill or those who wish to do harm to innocent men, women and children."

The sit-in a couple of weeks ago was exactly about what General Chiarelli said, which is to pass the King-Thompson bills to close the loopholes and to require that people who are on the no-fly list cannot purchase weapons that go out and result in mass killings of far too many Americans.

We should listen to the people who wore the uniform of our country, those leaders who, again, protected and defended not only the Constitution but all of us, and listen to their message and pass the King-Thompson bills.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY TO DO SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, while massive terrorist acts are raging all around the world, in my district yesterday 3 people were shot and killed, one a 28-year-old father of 3. And just last week a mother shot dead her two daughters and was killed because she refused to put down a gun.

We have a moment in history—in the backdrop of the largest mass murder by guns by a bad person in Orlando, Florida, as we mourn—to be able to do something significant, Mr. Speaker, and that is to pass the Thompson-King bipartisan, commonsense, responsible gun legislation.

Let me tell you what is being offered on the floor. That bill that is being offered on the floor would not have prevented the Emanuel 9 because it allows individuals to go past, if you will, the checking because in the part of it that deals with terrorism in particular, you can ask or the prosecutors must prove that you belong on that terrorist list, and, therefore, you put a barrier to protecting the American people.

We need a no fly, no buy; on the terrorist list, you can't do it; and we need a longer period for law enforcement to check the background checks. We need to save lives.

OUR FAMILIES CANNOT AFFORD FOR US TO WAIT ANY LONGER

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to demand action to prevent gun violence. Nearly every year 30,000 Americans die from gun violence. The American Medical Association has defined the situation as a public health crisis. There are two immediate commonsense solutions: preventing known suspects who are terrorists from buying guns and strengthening our background system to keep guns away from criminals.

Everywhere I went in Minnesota last week, I heard from families who strongly support these commonsense ideas. An overwhelming majority of Americans support the ideas as well.

The American people deserve to know where their Representative stands, yet Republicans refuse to allow a vote on these solutions. Republican leadership instead is shamefully peddling a gun lobby-endorsed bill that even Republicans back home say doesn't do enough to prevent terrorists from having guns.

Our families cannot afford for us to wait any longer. We need to take action. The House must act to prevent gun violence and keep our families and communities safe.

RESPONSIBLE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the time has long passed for Congress to act to enact responsible gun safety legislation. Mr. Speaker, bring these two bills to the floor for a vote.

GIVE US A VOTE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it has now been 3½ years since the horrific tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. In the past 3½ years, a lot has happened. There have been 1,182 mass shootings in our country and 34,000-plus people have been killed by someone using a gun. The House has been in session for 526 legislative days, and we have held 30 moments of silence for victims of gun violence.

But what hasn't happened in the past 3½ years is a vote. That is shameful. The American people deserve a Congress that is willing to stand up to the gun lobby and do what it takes to keep our communities safe. There is bipartisan legislation that would prohibit those on the terrorist watch list from being able to purchase firearms legally in our country, and there is bipartisan

legislation to close a dangerous loop-hole in our background check system.

Mr. Speaker, give us a vote.

TINA MEINS SPEAKS FOR ME

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, over and over again my colleagues have pleaded with the majority to give us a vote on legislation that will protect Americans from gun violence. Those pleas and the pleas of millions of Americans continue to be ignored.

So instead of my words, I am going to read the words of Tina Meins, whose father, Damian, was killed in San Bernardino last year: "There is room in this national debate for reason, for compromise and for compassion," she wrote. "Let us find common ground. Let's not be paralyzed because proposed solutions will not be perfect. If one person can be saved, isn't it worth the effort to fix this? Let's work together, please, for the good of everyone."

Well, Tina speaks for me, and she speaks for the thousands of families who have lost loved ones to gun violence in America.

GUN VIOLENCE MUST END TODAY

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago we gathered on this floor for another moment of silence to remember 49 victims of the mass shooting in Orlando. In the days that followed, our response was the same as it was after Sandy Hook, Umpqua Community College, and Colorado Springs—silence followed by more silence.

In the days since, we can add hundreds of names to the list of those lost in our Nation to a unique epidemic of gun violence, including the following from Massachusetts:

David Atherton, a young firefighter and veteran;

Marcus Hall, killed as his 4-year-old son sat feet away getting his haircut;

Trevor Washington, gunned down after a disagreement at a party;

Andrew Flonory, murdered less than a mile from where his sister and 2-year-old nephew had been executed 6 years earlier;

Anthony Clay, a married father of two, who died as a woman yelled "Don't leave me" over his body;

And 19-year-old Sabrina DaSilva, who had just stepped out of her apartment to grab juice out of her car for her 2-year-old daughter, a daughter who will never see her mother again.

Mr. Speaker, they are friends and neighbors who will be forever missed by the lives they touched, daughters and sons, mothers and fathers, whose families will forever live with the pain

and suffering of losing a loved one. This violence must stop.

WE MUST DO SOMETHING

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, after the historic sit-in that took place on this floor a couple weeks ago, last week I hosted a discussion on gun violence in my district. In attendance were people with a wide range of experiences with gun violence, constituents who volunteered time to advocate for better gun laws, individuals who lost family members due to gun violence, some who themselves were victims of gun violence but thankfully survived.

There were representatives from the LGBT community, public health professionals, a youth violence intervention program director, and the director of a theater production featuring people who lost loved ones to gun violence.

They came from different hometowns and different walks of life, and they have their own beliefs and world views, but they agree on one thing: we must do something to curb the tragic, persistent threat of gun violence in America.

Mr. Speaker, I don't expect all 435 Members of this body to agree on a perfect solution to this troubling issue, but I do expect them to do something that will meaningfully address it, and so do the American people.

WHEN WE SAT DOWN, WE STOOD UP

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, when my colleagues and I sat down on the floor, we stood up for millions of Americans who agree it is time for commonsense legislative action to help prevent gun violence.

When the Republican leadership ignored that call and then canceled the rest of the workweek, we took that message back to our districts. At a roundtable in my district, I met with families broken by random acts of gun violence, mothers who were moved by mass shootings, advocates calling for change, and just regular people who just wanted to see less violence. Their stories and their motivations were entirely different, but they all told me one thing: We are with you.

I refuse to let them down, and I refuse to let up until this body considers basic bipartisan, broadly supported reforms, and not shoddily crafted NRA-endorsed bills that do even less than moments of silence.

□ 1415

GIVE US A VOTE

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, a moment ago, the House Chaplain expressed the hope—I would imagine it is a fervent hope—that we would return to this place with "a spirit of common purpose." Those are the words that he used.

Nothing would reflect the common purpose of the American people more than allowing us to have a vote on gun safety legislation in this House. Ninety percent of Americans support universal background checks. That is common purpose. A majority of responsible gun owners in this country support universal background checks. That is common purpose. Eighty-five percent of Americans say that, if you can't fly on a plane because you are too dangerous, you shouldn't be able to buy a weapon. That is common purpose.

So, what is the problem? Why can't we bring legislation? Why can't we respond to the anguish and grief of so many families and communities around this country? The Speaker of this House will not allow legislation to come to the floor. He won't allow us to express the common purpose of the American people.

Give us a vote. Give us a chance to demonstrate that common purpose and address this scourge of violence in our country.

NO MORE EMPTY GESTURES

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, the whole point of the Democratic sit-in to demand congressional action on gun violence was to say that empty gestures and moments of silence for 30 seconds, followed by the bang of a gavel and resumption of business as usual will not be tolerated anymore in the face of this national gun violence epidemic.

Yet this week, our Republican colleagues are bringing forward a bill, written and blessed by the NRA, that is yet another empty gesture—a glorified moment of silence—because it establishes a completely arbitrary and artificial 72-hour timeframe and unreasonable standards that must be met within that timeframe.

I can't get my dry cleaning back in 72 hours, yet the NRA and our Republican friends expect the Attorney General to come forward, serve process, have a defendant hire an attorney, show up at a hearing, and prove with probable cause as the standard that this individual is about to commit an act of terror? Give me a break.

No more empty gestures. No more moments of silence that are completely disingenuous, including this glorified moment of silence that Republicans are bringing forward this week.