

this town right now is not about sit-ins. The real scandal is not about inaction. The real scandal is that this isn't that hard. This isn't that hard.

Eighty-five percent of Americans say no fly, no buy. Eighty-eight percent say support the Constitution. So let's do that. Let's stand with those who support no fly, no buy. Let's stand with those who support the Constitution. And let's give some level of hope to cling to, to the 90 percent of this country who disapprove of what is happening in this Chamber right now.

A demand for a bill that will go nowhere only promises inaction that makes its way into political commercials in November. Ignoring the fact that America wants no fly, no buy is also catering to the politics of November.

Let's cast aside this current debate and recognize that the solutions are right in front of us if we extract the politics out of this.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week Congress concluded with a spotlight on gun safety and the yawning chasm between the attitudes of the Republican-controlled Congress and the needs and desires of the American people.

Why should America be the only developed Nation on the planet that cannot protect its families from gun violence? Obviously, there are no simple solutions in a Nation where there is a gun for every adult, where a half-dozen people have been killed in recent years by their pets, and even babies kill parents and their siblings with guns.

Too many people feel that more guns and fewer protections is the solution, obscuring the fact that the overwhelming majority of the American public agrees that there are things we can do and that it is irresponsible and cynical not to try.

For more than 24 hours last week, my Democratic colleagues and I discussed many of these solutions on the floor of the House, demanding action on three. For instance, over 90 percent of the American public and a majority of gun owners agreed that there should be no anonymous secret purchases of weapons. There should be a universal background check. People who cannot buy firearms at a gun store should not be able to buy guns over the Internet or at gun shows anonymously.

The American public supports us in our efforts to make it harder for people the government has deemed too dangerous to buy a plane ticket to purchase assault weapons. And it is past time to eliminate the outrageous prohibition against the Centers for Disease Control to even study the epidemic of gun violence that kills three or four Americans every hour.

These solutions are not really that hard. They would be a signal that we are serious about trying to change the gun violence equation that kills about 90 people every day.

I returned to Oregon last week and had encouraging meetings with dozens of people who have been leading the charge in my home State, who are redoubling their efforts. They have demonstrated that steps can be taken through the political process and are committed to building upon their commonsense actions. For example, they led the charge to prevent people with a history of domestic violence and restraining orders from purchasing guns.

The Oregon Legislature finally enacted universal background checks, like we are seeking at the Federal level, and the Oregon House of Representatives even passed legislation last session that would have closed the so-called "Charleston Loophole" where law enforcement has a 10-day delay for a purchase if the police are unable to determine that purchaser's qualifications.

I was impressed and encouraged that these ordinary citizens, so devoted to this cause, are committing to taking on the issue further at the State and local level and making it an issue in the political elections in the fall wherever they can. It is only that type of activity that will overcome the inertia, the temerity, and the cynicism of people who are apologists for gun violence.

The same way we embarked upon a decades-long crusade to reduce traffic fatalities that cut that death rate in half, we need to embark on a similar crusade to reduce gun violence.

The Members who took to the floor over 24 hours showed a powerful expression of policy and emotion that used to be seen on the floor of this House but is, sadly, seldom in evidence today. But it is not too late. Congress should do its part to at least allow the issue the attention and the consideration we would give to any other public health crisis and end the shame of being the only developed Nation on the planet that cannot protect its families from gun violence.

WEST VIRGINIA FLOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGELL). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, West Virginians are facing tremendous hardship from devastating floods we experienced nearly 2 weeks ago. In a matter of hours, more than 20 people were killed, hundreds of homes destroyed, and thousands of residents' lives were turned upside-down.

Through the heartbreak, stories of heroism have emerged. Neighbors have offered a helping hand to strangers. Our churches and schools have opened their doors to people in need and those who have lost their homes are still volunteering at our command centers and food lines.

This is what makes West Virginia special. When things get tough, we get working. We band together and we are stronger together.

I have traveled throughout our flood-ravaged communities doing what I can to support our recovery. Along the way, I have met brave people, selfless people, and some of the kindest people you would ever get a chance to know.

In the basement of the Summersville Baptist Church, thousands of family photographs from just one family lay on tables curled and soaked in floodwater. Church youth group members worked to take each picture out of its frame or album and spread them out to dry. This parishioner may have lost her home, but this spirit of community is helping preserve her memories.

In Rainelle, I met an 18-year-old who had just joined the volunteer fire department. His job after the floodwaters receded was to recover and retrieve bodies and then stand guard over them in the fire department. He has seen and done things that no one should have had to experience, but he kept doing his job as a volunteer for his community, serving his community.

I met a lady sheltered the first night in Ansted who was rescued after hours in her one-story home that had filled with 4 feet of water. She survived the horrific event by relying on her deep faith, knowing she was in God's hands.

The road ahead will be tough. We have a very long way to go. We will always remember and honor those whom we lost, and we will offer our love and support to those rebuilding their lives.

I know we will rebuild. We will repair our schools, restock our library shelves, repave our roads, and reconstruct our bridges. We will be there for each other.

We are West Virginians, and it is our home.

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THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the American people have had enough. They have had enough with the epidemic of gun violence in our country. They have had enough with House Republicans' obstruction of bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment legislation to help keep guns away from those who shouldn't have them—terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill—because whether it is in a movie theater, on a college campus, at an elementary school, in a church, in a nightclub, or on the streets of our cities, we have lost far too many innocent lives to gun violence.

Let me give you some numbers: 3½, that is the number of years since the

terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School; 34,000, that is the number of people who have been killed by someone using a gun since Sandy Hook; 1,182, that is the number of mass shootings in our country since Sandy Hook; 30, that is the number of moments of silence observed by this House for victims of gun violence since Sandy Hook; 521, that is the number of days the House has been in session since Sandy Hook; and zero—zero—that is the number of votes that have been taken in this House to keep guns out of dangerous hands in the last 3½ years.

Just a few weeks ago, we experienced the worst mass shooting in our country's history at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Forty-nine innocent people lost their lives in that nightclub, 49 people who were someone's son, daughter, someone's brother, sister, someone's significant other, someone's friend, and someone's loved one.

After this horrific shooting, the American people don't want to see their elected representatives fall back into the same old pattern of mass shootings followed by moments of silence, thoughts and prayers, but no real action taken to help prevent the next tragedy. The American people want to see Congress pass meaningful legislation to help keep our communities and our loved ones safe.

Eighty-five percent of Americans are in favor of banning individuals on the terrorist watch list from being able to legally buy guns. Ninety percent of Americans support strengthening and expanding our background check system.

There are two bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment bills that would do just that:

The first bill, H.R. 1076, known as the no fly, no buy, was introduced by our Republican colleague PETER KING. This bill says that if you are on the FBI's terrorist watch list, then you don't get to walk into a gun store, pass a background check, and leave with the weapon of your choice. If there is one thing both sides of the aisle should be able to agree on, it is keeping guns away from suspected terrorists. Bring that bill up for a vote.

The second bill, H.R. 1217—with 186 coauthors, Democrats and Republicans—would close a dangerous loophole in our background check system that allows criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill to bypass a background check altogether and, instead, purchase their guns online or at a gun show or through a classified ad. This is a huge loophole, and it costs lives.

You don't have to look any further than the sister of Elvin Daniel from Wisconsin. His sister Zina had a restraining order against her husband which prevented him from passing a background check when he tried to buy a gun in a store. Nevertheless, Zina's husband was able to go online and buy the same gun, a 40-caliber semiautomatic handgun, and he took that gun

and used it to kill Zina and two other people in a store in Wisconsin.

This bill would close these kinds of loopholes and help stop criminals from getting guns. Everyone says they want to keep guns away from dangerous people, but the only way to know if someone is dangerous is to conduct a background check. Background checks are our first line of defense against criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill in getting guns.

Last year, 260 Members of this House—including 76 of my Republican colleagues—voted to fund the background check system at record levels. Let me tell you, if you are willing to fund the system at historic levels, you should have no problem using the system. Bring this bill up for a vote.

Both of these bills are not only bipartisan, they respect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. I am a gun owner. I own guns. I support the Second Amendment. If these bills did anything to violate those rights, my name wouldn't be on them. As a responsible gun owner, I understand that if gun violence continues unabated, then eventually we will see laws that place overly burdensome restrictions on our right to own guns. Bring these bills up for a vote.

BRING HOME OUR POW AND MIA SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I organized a discussion here on Capitol Hill focused on a resolution I have introduced which I believe could have a major impact on our Nation's ability to return more than 80,000 American citizens who served in the Vietnam war, Korean war, and World War II who are still missing in action.

I authored H. Con. Res. 56 because I am thankful every day as the father of an injured Army soldier that he returned home safely. I cannot imagine the pain and anguish of the wives, the husbands, the mothers, the fathers, the sons and daughters who wait for decades, and even generations, to receive word regarding their loved one who was taken as a prisoner of war or is missing in action.

We need to make the greatest effort possible to bring home the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. We need to fulfill that promise that we leave no man behind. That is why this resolution states that, in order to ensure transparency and efficiency, countries that enter into trade agreements, trade deals with our Nation, must assist in the research and the recovery efforts of America's missing servicemembers.

I am proud to represent the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District, which covers a broad expanse of my

State's northern and central territory. Over the years, I have heard from the families of servicemen, such as Major Lewis P. Smith II, of Bellefonte, Centre County, a Vietnam soldier who was listed missing in action; Captain Darl Bloom of Morrisdale, Clearfield County, who served in Vietnam as a pilot and is listed as missing in action; and Lieutenant David Myers of State College, Centre County, who also served in Vietnam and is listed as missing in action all these decades later.

These brave men and the thousands of others across our Nation who remain listed as missing or as prisoners of war deserve our most diligent efforts. When a servicemember makes the ultimate sacrifice, it is our duty to ensure that they are returned home to their loved ones. I appreciate the support of this measure from groups dedicated to our servicemembers and veterans. It is time to bring home the men and women over the past several generations who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom.

NO MORE MOMENTS OF SILENCE

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce you to Caroline Nosal. Caroline was described by her friends as wonderful and sassy. She had a sharp wit and would say exactly what she thought. Friends said she was a vibrant friend with a great smile. Her parents said she was curious, caring, and kind.

She loved books. She wasn't a bookish person, but she loved books, all kinds of books. Once with a friend shopping in a used bookstore, she picked up an old, well-read copy of an 18th century animal husbandry book, a subject she knew nothing about but just wanted to get because it was new to her. She did that a lot.

She was passionate about animals as well. Once while driving to work, she accidentally hit a bird. She stopped, put it in a box, and took it to the Humane Society on her way to work. Even though she was late to work, she knew she had done the right thing.

But in early February of this year, in Madison, Wisconsin, Caroline Nosal was shot to death by a troubled, disgruntled coworker who used to harass her and who had just bought a gun 24 hours earlier.

Only months before this tragedy occurred, Governor Scott Walker and the legislature in Wisconsin changed a decades-old Wisconsin law that had required a 48-hour waiting period to buy a handgun, a measure that, if in place, might have saved Caroline.

You see, the assailant got fired, went out and bought the gun with the plan to immediately shoot her; but since he had never fired a gun, instead, he took it to target practice so he could learn how to shoot it. He bought the gun on Monday, and on Tuesday used it to