

shoot Caroline Nosal in the chest and in the head. Later, after police picked him up, he said it was easy to kill Nosal, that he was angry with her. He said: "I'm glad I didn't hit her. I don't know what else, I guess I'm sorry, but . . . I don't know if I am sorry, I'm just glad I didn't hit her." Instead, he shot her twice to her death.

Last Wednesday, House Democrats from across the country held a National Day of Action for commonsense gun violence prevention. I held a rally in Madison, Wisconsin, where a couple hundred people showed up to support commonsense changes. It was at that rally where I met Caroline's father, Jim Nosal. Jim and his wife, Jane, are reminders that gun violence can affect any family and that people have a right to be free of gun violence in their communities. The Day of Action followed our historic taking over of the House floor to demand action on gun violence, especially following the Nation's largest mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

We are urging Congress to act on commonsense gun reform, commonsense gun reform measures like expanded background checks and no fly, no buy. These ideas aren't necessarily progressive pipe dreams; they are the first necessary steps toward preventing gun violence. In a recent poll, 92 percent of respondents said they were in favor of expanding background checks.

While the Speaker may claim that the House Democratic sit-in was disrespectful to the institution, what is truly disrespectful is to stand idly by and allow more tragic stories like Caroline's to unfold. In Congress, we have the opportunity to save lives and reduce the gun violence epidemic in our country. Instead, the majority has decided to trot out a toothless bill crafted by the NRA that does nothing to keep gun violence out of our communities.

If the Speaker won't listen to the House Democrats' calls for real action to prevent gun violence, maybe he will listen to those of his own constituents. The night of the sit-in, we put out a call for comments, and over 500 people commented, including dozens from the Speaker's district and neighboring districts. Let me read just a few of those comments.

Jane, from Racine, said: "We've had too many moments of silence. It's time for action."

Karen in Kenosha: "It breaks my heart as a veteran teacher to now have to teach students to barricade doors and fight back against a person who is trying to kill them with a semiautomatic weapon. What horrible damage is being done to their young psyches as they try and learn with this threat of violence ever present? Please vote for gun control now."

Jim, from Mount Pleasant, said: "As a law enforcement officer, I support background checks. We've seen officers injured by people with legal guns."

Gloria, from Racine, said: "There's nothing worse than hugging a mom

who lost her child to gun violence. I'm tired of going to those vigils."

And, finally, Quinn, 9 years old, from Somers, Wisconsin: "People don't want to get shot and die."

Speaker RYAN, you don't have to listen to us. Listen to your constituents. Listen to 9-year-old Quinn, who doesn't want to get shot and die. Listen to parents like Jim and Jane Nosal, who want to spare other families the pain that they have had to endure.

No more moments of silence. It is time for moments of action, Mr. Speaker. It is time for moments of action.

FLOODING IN WEST VIRGINIA

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, my home State of West Virginia experienced some of the worst flooding in our State's history. Here is a picture of a damaged home in Elk View, in Kanawha County, West Virginia, very typical of what was seen during the flooding. More than 20 West Virginians lost their lives, hundreds lost their homes, and thousands lost access to water and electricity for an extended period of time. Like my colleague, EVAN JENKINS, from West Virginia's First Congressional District, who spoke earlier, my thoughts and prayers are with all those who have suffered through this terrible tragedy.

I traveled throughout the flood-damaged areas last week and was truly moved by what I saw. I saw and met a pastor who emptied his entire bank account to buy food for his neighbors. I saw an army of volunteers, all of different political, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds, donating their time and money to help. I saw members of the National Guard using their military training to help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I saw West Virginians coming together in the most trying of times, as resilient as ever, and full of hope: a hope that we can rebuild, a hope that recovery is not a question but a certainty. West Virginia will rebuild, and we will rebuild stronger than ever. But this is going to be a long road to recovery. Our communities have been tested.

As we continue to rebuild, I want to make sure that all of my constituents in the Second Congressional District know that I am here to help. If you need a hand in applying for FEMA assistance or figuring out which Federal programs you are eligible for, please call me at my office in Charleston at 304-925-5964, or my Washington, D.C., office at 202-225-2711.

I am blessed to be part of a wonderful community in West Virginia's Second District. I am grateful for the strength and hard work of so many.

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While the flood waters may have receded, our work is far from over. Re-

covery will take weeks, months, even years, for many West Virginians. So our call to service remains, and I have no doubt that my fellow West Virginians will continue to answer this call.

God bless West Virginia.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Democrats sat on the House floor for more than 26 hours. For a full day and night, we demanded justice for victims of gun violence and action to prevent the next tragedy; not just thoughts and prayers, but action.

Republicans turned off the mics. They turned off the cameras and just left. They cannot silence our voices because we are speaking for the 80 percent-plus of Americans who support commonsense reforms to stop gun violence, like background checks and keeping guns away from terrorists.

While the recent tragedy in Orlando—a tragedy that claimed 49 innocent lives—sparked the sit-in, there have been too many victims of gun violence throughout our country for too many years.

In my district in 2012, we suffered a large campus mass shooting. These people were trying to get an education. They were studying to become nurses because they wanted to help people. But their lives were cut too short by gun violence. A man with a semiautomatic weapon killed Tshering Bhutia, Doris Chibuko, Sonam Chodon, Grace Kim, Kathleen Ping, Judith Seymour, and Lydia Sim.

Sadly, these aren't the only members of my community who have lost their lives or loved ones to gun violence. Let me remember some of the victims of gun violence in my own community once again.

In my district, for example, there were 89 gun deaths in 2015. What is worse, many of these were children. Since July 2009, nearly 50 students in the Oakland Unified School District have been slain. Let me be clear: that is 50 kids.

Why isn't the Speaker allowing us to do anything about this?

Just this past weekend, in my community, four people were gunned down in two separate incidents. Every day in my community and places around this country, this senseless violence continues.

How can House Republicans just ignore this bloodshed?

Let me talk about a few additional victims so you can just understand their lives and share the horror that cut their loves so short.

Davon Ellis. This is Davon. Davon was a star football player and an excellent student at Oakland Technical High School. My nephew was walking with him when he was gunned down.

Antonio Ramos. Antonio was shot on September 29, 2015. Antonio was a talented artist working on an

antiviolence mural. He was one of 60 artists working on Oakland's superhero mural project. He was shot by someone trying to steal his camera.

Chyemil Pierce. Chyemil was 30 years old. She was shot on March 13, 2015. She was a mother of three that was shot by a stray bullet while shielding her children. She had walked her 7- and 9-year-old children home from school at about 4:45 p.m., in broad daylight. Two others were injured in this shooting.

Torian Hughes. Torian was the grandson of my friend, Oakland Council president Lynette Gibson McElhaney. He died by a gunshot just a few days before Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, how many more Torians? How many more Antonios? How many more Chyemils will die protecting their children?

Enough is enough. It is past time to do something. It starts with enacting background checks on all gun sales and making sure that guns stay out of the hands of those who cannot fly on airplanes. That is just common sense. The American people know it. It is about time the Republicans listen.

I am so proud that my community, California's East Bay, has rallied to support our efforts. Some family members attended our National Day of Action last week and pleaded with us to do something.

I want to share what one of my constituents said during our sit-in 2 weeks ago on the House floor. She called my office, in tears, with a powerful message for all of us, especially Speaker RYAN.

She said: "I am a victim of gun violence, and I really appreciate what you are doing."

She made one simple request—a request that the entire House Democratic Caucus has been making: "I hope you can settle down and get a vote."

I dare the Speaker to call her back and tell her: Sorry, we are trying to gain consensus. Some Members still have reservations. Sorry, reelection support from the NRA is more important than addressing the epidemic of gun violence.

Call her, Mr. Speaker, and tell her that the NRA and its millions matter more than her.

We need to keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. Vote on our bills for background checks for all. Enough is enough.

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I found in my public service that one of the great privileges of serving are the opportunities it has afforded to me to meet with so many amazing Americans and Virginians from all walks of life. Many of these occasions have been moments of great joy: greeting servicemembers when they have returned home from serving abroad, graduation ceremonies.

There have also been moments of profound sadness and serious moments where not only me, but I am sure my colleagues here, have had the opportunity—and the difficult one—to actually meet with those who have lost a servicemember in service to our country or those whose families have really been hit so hard with a debilitating, indeed, fatal disease.

One of those fatal diseases that I come to the floor this morning to speak about is Alzheimer's. I believe probably every Member of this House has been affected by it in some way; both sides. It certainly affected my own family.

Alzheimer's damages and eventually destroys brain cells. It leads to memory loss and other challenges in brain function. It usually develops slowly and gradually gets worse. Ultimately, Alzheimer's is fatal.

Every 66 seconds, Mr. Speaker, a fellow American is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. But let's be clear: we are not talking about statistics here. We are talking about people.

To my left is the Garner family. I have learned so much from the Garner family about Alzheimer's. If you ever wonder if engaging your local Representative makes a difference; indeed, it does. This family is an example of that.

This is Jim; his wife, Karen; and their two beautiful children. I got to know Jim when he was diagnosed in the early stages of Alzheimer's. He was an officer in the United States Air Force at Langley. He served with distinction. Alzheimer's cut that short.

This is Frankie. Their daughter, Frankie, is amazing. She is one of the strongest advocates I know for a cause that she believes in. I have learned a lot from her and her entire family.

Jim passed away this past April, just days before his 54th birthday. Karen kept a blog about her experiences, and with her permission, I want to read from that blog. This is Karen speaking:

I want people to see what Alzheimer's disease does to a wonderful human being. I want to break the misconception that Alzheimer's disease is just old people forgetting someone's name or getting lost. I want to erase the stereotypical patient idea. I want the stigma that follows a diagnosis to be a thing of the past.

Well, we have got a long way to go before that is a complete reality across our Nation, but she and the family have helped me understand this. I am grateful to them and to the Alzheimer's Association for helping me further grasp at a deeper level just how this disease is harming our country.

Now, if we look at it, here are some of the statistics that we have got to keep in mind. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. Of the 10 top killers of Americans, Alzheimer's is the only disease that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed.

The rate of diagnosis is increasing. Right now, we have about 5 million

Americans that are suffering from this disease, including 135,000 Virginians. If we fail to act, Mr. Speaker, the number of Americans living with Alzheimer's could soar to as many as 16 million by 2020.

I am a fiscal conservative. I am acutely aware of our fiscal trajectory. Yet, as I look at the cost of Alzheimer's—and it is far more than a cost—if we look at what is happening here statistically, here is where our expenses are going, Mr. Speaker. I, as a fiscal conservative, come to the House floor today to say that we need to be investing more in Alzheimer's research.

We worked in, I think, an admirable and bipartisan way to increase funding to over \$660 million a year. Mr. Speaker, I call for \$2 billion. It is money well invested. Some things that we invest in are true expenses. Other things are true investments. This is one of them.

We should fund every program and medical research opportunity that shows promise. And, indeed, there are great opportunities for promise here. We can investigate brain imaging, biomarkers, and clinical tools that may result in earlier and more accurate diagnoses, timely interventions, and effective disease monitoring.

If we had advanced this, we could have done a better job for Jim and his family's lives. We ought to really set for our country something like the great moon shot that my father was so an integral part of.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that we can do this. We can find a cure. We can do right by the next generation. Keep in mind that it is not about statistics, but it is about people.

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, our country has witnessed over 130 mass shootings since the beginning of this year. There are 270 million guns in the United States. That amounts to 89 per 100 Americans.

On average, 31 Americans are murdered with guns every day in this country, and 151 are treated in America's emergency rooms. Gun violence costs this country \$230 billion every year, which amounts to \$200 per person.

Gun death rates fell 56 percent in my State of California, from 1993 to 2010, because the legislature engaged in evidence-based research policy initiatives that have dropped that rate.

Between 2004 and 2013, 316,000 Americans were killed by firearms. During that same timeframe, 313 Americans died from terrorist attacks, both internationally and domestically.

Approximately 40 percent of all gun sales are private and are, therefore, exempted from the current background checks. Studies show that every day that background checks are used, the