

reducing and eliminating its territory and its ability to direct attacks around the globe. A commitment to this effort will allow our military to make long-term strategic decisions.

It is important for Republicans and Democrats alike to find a common vision for this effort. I do not believe that we cannot have and should not have a do-nothing summer while Americans are in jeopardy.

□ 1015

REMEMBERING JACK RUBIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I come to the floor this morning to commemorate the life of a dear friend, Jack Rubin, who passed away last night at his home in south Florida.

Jack was a Holocaust survivor, the only member of his family to survive. He was liberated from Auschwitz in May of 1945, came to America, and served in our United States Army.

Over the course of his life, Jack dedicated his time to raising awareness about the horrors of the Holocaust and fighting for the needs of survivors. Jack was a regular on Capitol Hill, meeting with Members of Congress and testifying before Congress four times in 2007, 2008, and twice in 2014.

On September 18, 2014, Jack testified before a subcommittee hearing, which I chaired, about the struggles of recovering assets for Holocaust survivors, and the struggle continues. At this important hearing, Jack laid out all of the difficulties, all of the challenges that Holocaust survivors are facing in America today, the continued struggle to find the justice that has evaded most of them for over 70 years, and the poverty, the lack of medical care, dental care, mental health care for many survivors.

That is why my colleague, TED DEUTCH, and I authored a resolution, which already passed the House, urging the German Government to fully fulfill its moral responsibility to Holocaust survivors and urgently provide the financial resources necessary to ensure that survivors live in dignity and comfort in their remaining years.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass this measure immediately because this is about survivors getting all of their needs addressed and getting them addressed immediately.

I offer my sincere condolences to Jack Rubin's widow, Shirley, and their three children—Michael, David, and Lynn—and many grandchildren.

In the 2014 hearing, Mr. Speaker, Jack stated: We are losing more and more survivors every day, and the ones remaining need our help now.

We will never forget you, Jack Rubin. We must honor Jack's legacy, Mr. Speaker, by continuing to pursue justice for all Holocaust survivors.

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE IRAN DEAL AND THE AMIA ATTACK

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday marks the 1-year anniversary since the administration and the rest of the P5+1 nations signed the weak and dangerous Iran nuclear deal. One year later, and Iran continues its push for ballistic missiles, and we are seeing reports from Germany's intelligence services that Iran's proliferation activities have not stopped, that the regime has increased its efforts to advance its chemical and biological warfare capabilities as well as its nuclear weapons program.

This week, the House will bring to the floor various bills that would amplify sanctions against Iran. We must ensure that Iran is held accountable for its terror activities and that individuals engaged in such activities are brought to justice.

Monday marks the 22nd anniversary of the attack against the Argentinian Jewish Community Center called AMIA in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Iran and its proxy Hezbollah, a designated foreign terrorist organization, were behind this heinous and cowardly attack which killed over 80 people and injured hundreds more.

Unfortunately, thanks to this weak nuclear deal, some of Iran's most notorious criminals will see sanctions against them lifted, including several individuals responsible for the AMIA bombings. One, General Vahidi, for example. He is a former Quds commander, a former Iranian defense minister, and he has been wanted by INTERPOL since 2007 for his direct role in the AMIA attack.

Guess what? His name was one of the ones included in this Iran deal for sanctions to be lifted.

Is that justice, Mr. Speaker?

Last year, the special prosecutor on the AMIA and my dear friend, Alberto Nisman, was killed in his home in Buenos Aires. I urge the Argentine authorities to do everything in their power to continue to properly and thoroughly investigate his death so that those responsible can be brought to justice.

The AMIA attack serves as just one reminder of the many threats from Iran and its nefarious proxies that endanger our national security, the Middle East, and our ally, the Democratic Jewish State of Israel.

As we mark the 1-year anniversary of this horrible nuclear deal and commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the AMIA attack, we must redouble our efforts and commitments to hold Iran and all of its cohorts fully accountable.

WE NEED TO STAND UP FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY

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

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, today marks 1 month since the horrific attack on Pulse nightclub that took 49 lives.

Many of us have come here to this floor raising our voices to demand that this House take action to prevent the loss of life from guns in this country.

But one critical, tragic aspect of this crime that sometimes has gotten lost is exactly who was targeted in the shooting. Pulse was a mainstay of Orlando's LGBT community, and of the Latino community in particular. Now, more than ever, we need to unite against hatred, discrimination, and bigotry. We need to stand together in calling for justice, peace, and equality.

I am, frankly, appalled to see that today, today on the 1-month anniversary of the shootings at the Pulse nightclub, instead of standing with the LGBT community, instead of passing background checks, today the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will be advancing legislation to undermine the existing and insufficient protections that the law provides for LGBT Americans.

I am proud that my home State of Connecticut is one of several States to pass legislation protecting the LGBT community from discrimination, whether folks are at work, at school, at the doctor's office or, yes, using a public bathroom. Our residents support these laws. We support these protections. LGBT folks are our brothers, our sisters, our friends, our neighbors. They are our kids' teachers, coaches, and their friends. They give back to our community. They volunteer at church. They serve in public office.

In Congress we should be focusing on legislation to prevent discrimination and prevent hatred. Our goal should be a country in which all Americans, in every State, can live their lives free from bigotry and harassment and free of the fear of being targeted with guns because of who people are. Quite simply, I can't imagine a worse way for Congress to respond to the massacre in Orlando than with legislation attacking LGBT Americans.

The American people overwhelmingly believe that discrimination targeting the LGBT community has no place in our society, and yet a bill to support that discrimination is getting a full hearing today. Meanwhile, legislation to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists that has broad, bipartisan support among the public cannot get so much as a vote in this House.

In the 3½ years since the Sandy Hook massacre in my State, in my district in Connecticut, this House has failed to take any action, any action whatsoever to prevent the deaths of Americans by guns. In that time, 100,000 Americans have died from guns, 49 of them in the largest mass shooting in American history 1 month ago, targeted because they are LGBT at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get our priorities straight. It is time for us to do what the American people sent us here to do. Let us send a very clear message: We stand up against hatred and discrimination; we stand with our LGBT

brothers and sisters; and we stand with the American people who are demanding that this House take action to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people, to keep guns away from terrorists, to keep guns away from criminals, to keep guns away from domestic abusers, and to keep guns away from the dangerously mentally ill.

We need a vote on no fly, no buy. We need a vote on comprehensive background checks on every commercial sale of a gun. The time to act is now, Mr. Speaker, and action is not increasing voting to increase discrimination against our LGBT brothers and sisters and to make them more vulnerable to the gun violence that wracks this country. We need to act. The time is now.

REMEMBERING DAVID ELAHI

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, early on Sunday, July 3, while most of us were resting up for our Independence Day weekends, Sergeant David Elahi was conducting highway safety patrol measures in Sterlington, Louisiana, a city which I represent.

That morning, a drunk driver struck and killed David while he was conducting a traffic stop. The driver injured two other officers as well. David was only 28 years old. Communities in Ouachita Parish and the surrounding areas are still reeling from David's death because, according to all accounts, he was just a great guy.

He was a family man who left behind a 2-year-old daughter and his fiancée, who is expecting a child in January. That shift was supposed to be David's last full-time shift for the Sterlington Police Department. He was planning to retire to take care of home, go back to a business that he had started, wanted to improve it, but he didn't get there.

I rise today because our Nation needs to know about David. They need to know that he was a model citizen pursuing the American Dream. He was proud of his family. He was proud of his church. He was proud of his home, and he was proud of the service he provided.

Last week was a dark week in our Nation. The deaths in my home State of Louisiana as well as those in Texas and Minnesota have once again thrust into the forefront a debate on the role our law enforcement officers play in policing our communities.

There have been calls to harm our police, and one man in Dallas did just that. For the first time in history, graphic scenes from our streets are being live-streamed on the Internet. People are reacting sometimes in violent ways. All loss of life is tragic. More violence is not the answer. When tragedies occur, we must fully investigate them and hold accountable any who acted wrongfully.

But even when bad things happen, we cannot let these events define who we are and react in ways that divide us. Most of us want the same things: to provide for our families, to better our communities, and to serve our God. The Bible tells us that patience is a virtue, and we must use that wisdom today as we seek answers to questions everyone in society is asking.

For me, personally, I believe the overwhelming majority of our police officers are just like David. They serve because they want to make a difference, they want to make their communities a better place. They are there and they serve simply because they care.

I would encourage everyone listening to take a deep breath and reflect on the services of David Elahi. I want you to think about how he served his community. I want you to think about his fiancée, his daughter, and the child who will never know him from this point on. I want to remember that family members of all our law enforcement officers share intimately in the cause of public safety that they want to provide.

I also want to think about those five officers in Dallas who lost their lives in the line of duty and how their fellow officers ran toward the gunfire while others ran away. That is what our officers do. That is why they keep us safe. No institution is perfect. People like David do not deserve to be vilified because they chose to serve and protect. People like those officers in Dallas didn't deserve to be marked for death because they were simply police officers. They did their duty, and they were killed because of it.

So thank a law enforcement officer today for what they do for you and for me. Thank their families for sharing in their sacrifice. Say a prayer for David, his family, and the Sterlington community, and say a prayer for all of those who wear the badge.

□ 1030

GIVE US A VOTE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, why is it that more than 80 percent of NRA members and over 80 percent of gun owners support background checks? Well, I will tell you why. It is because they are responsible gun owners; and responsible gun owners understand that there is nothing wrong with making sure that a prospective gun buyer isn't a terrorist, a criminal, a domestic abuser, or dangerously mentally ill.

The Supreme Court made that perfectly clear in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. The Court ruled that, while Americans have the right to keep and bear arms, there are no constitutional problems with laws prohibiting felons

and the dangerously mentally ill from carrying guns.

As a responsible gun owner myself, I will never give up my guns, and I will never ask law-abiding individuals without a history of dangerous mental illness to give up theirs. And, like other responsible gun owners, I understand that if gun violence continues unabated, then eventually we will see laws that place substantial and overly burdensome restrictions on our right to own guns.

To reduce gun violence, we don't need to stop law-abiding citizens who use guns for hunting, sport shooting, and personal protection from obtaining those firearms. We need to stop terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and those with a history of dangerous mental illness from getting guns.

Our first line of defense when it comes to making sure that guns don't fall into dangerous hands is to conduct a background check. And we know that, when used, background checks work.

Every day, background checks stop more than 170 felons, some 50 domestic abusers, and nearly 20 fugitives from buying a gun. But sadly, a gaping loophole allows those same felons, dangerously mentally ill, and domestic abusers to bypass a background check in 34 States. All they have to do is go online or go to a gun show. That is wrong; that is dangerous; and that loophole needs to be closed.

That is why it is long past time for the Republican leadership to allow a vote on H.R. 1217, my bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment bill to require a background check for all commercial gun sales. The bill bolsters the Second Amendment rights of lawful gun owners by making sure that the bad guys can't easily bypass background checks when trying to buy a gun.

Just as important for the safety and security of our country and our fellow Americans is H.R. 1076, bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment legislation to prohibit those who are on the FBI's terrorist watch list from being able to legally buy a firearm. We should be able to agree that suspected terrorists shouldn't be able to legally buy a gun or guns of their choosing.

As a responsible gun owner, I am fed up with those who are blindly opposed to background checks hiding behind bumper sticker slogans like: "Guns don't kill people; people kill people." Everyone knows that guns don't kill people, which is exactly why responsible gun owners and the overwhelming majority of the American people understand that it is important to run a background check to see if the person buying the gun is a danger to our community.

This debate isn't a choice between respecting the Second Amendment or reducing gun violence. As a responsible gun owner, I am tired of it being framed that way. It is about this Congress doing both.

The Supreme Court's *Heller* ruling provides people on both sides with an