

I am proud we could get this done for our seniors and all who are struggling across the country.

THANKING HEADCOUNT.ORG

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

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank HeadCount, a nonpartisan organization that uses the power of music to register voters and promote participation in democracy. They reach young people and music fans where they already are—online and at concerts across the country—from Dead & Company to the Dixie Chicks.

Their message is not about what political party you support or what issues you care about but, instead, that, as younger voters, you must be heard.

Let's face it. The single greatest determining factor to whether or not you vote is likely age. That means older people often get heard on issues that are important to them, which can be different than those of younger voters.

Whether you care about common-sense gun violence protections, global warming, or equality for everyone, HeadCount is a platform to help people get heard.

Thank you, HeadCount.org, for all you do in broadening our democracy.

RECOGNIZING STEVE AND DIANE SPURLING WITH CITIZEN HERO AWARD

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and award St. Charles School Board member Steve Spurling and his wife, Diane, with a Citizen Hero Award for acting quickly to protect the life of a woman in distress.

On May 3, the two were walking their dog when a woman ran out of her house bloodied, falling on the driveway, and calling for help. While the Spurling family rushed to aid their distressed neighbor, a man exited the house yelling for the woman before pulling out a gun and shooting five times at the group.

Reacting quickly and selflessly, Mr. Spurling tackled the shooter from behind, disarmed him, and held him down. The woman was rushed to Delnor Hospital in Geneva and has recovered from her injuries.

Steve serves our community by providing educational leadership, and both he and his wife acted courageously to save the life of their neighbor. The 14th District Citizen Hero Award recognizes exemplary constituents in my district who inspire others with their commendable actions.

Steve and Diane, it is my pleasure to represent you and extend our district's heartfelt gratitude with this award.

HONORING KEVIN HANRAHAN

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and fellow Omahan, Kevin Hanrahan, the Tally Clerk of the House. He retires this September, after 38 years of distinguished service to the House of Representatives.

In 1978, Kevin left Omaha with former Congressman John Cavanaugh, with whom he remains friends to this day, and shortly thereafter joined the Clerk's Office, where he has worked in the Tally section for the past 37 years—29 as an Assistant Tally Clerk and the last 8 as a Tally Clerk.

Kevin is a workhorse, not a show horse. His depth of parliamentary and institutional knowledge is matched only by his love of this institution. He has played a pivotal role in making the process operate smoothly, and his knowledge and guidance will be deeply missed.

While Kevin's upcoming retirement is a big loss for his colleagues and the House, we wish him and his lovely wife, Peggi, nothing but the best in their next chapter of life. I am pretty sure most of that chapter will be written on the golf course. With that, I wish them long drives and birdie putts.

I might also add that Kevin and I played rugby at Creighton University a few years ago.

Thank you, Kevin, for your outstanding service and for being a remarkable example to your colleagues of what serving this institution is all about.

PRECISION FARMING

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, despite the Internet being an integral part of modern American life, there are still many rural farmers across our Nation who do not have access to this essential tool.

The Internet has the power to revolutionize the agriculture sector, and North Country farmers have shared with me various ways that increased broadband access could provide them with opportunities for innovation and improved agribusiness. For instance, a dairy farmer from Potsdam who spoke with my office uses broadband to automate feeding plans for his cows.

To support our North Country farmers, I will be introducing the Precision Farming Act of 2016. This legislation will encourage the construction of rural broadband connections to farms by allowing providers to receive reimbursements for the costs related to construction. Furthermore, this legislation would put our Nation's farmers first by prioritizing their loan applications for additional construction.

To compete in a 21st century economy, our farmers must have access to broadband technology. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I want to bring to light the fact that we are still trying to get two bills passed in the House. How many more innocent lives will be lost before that happens?

My people, everybody's people, the American people want gun reform. My Republican colleagues are blocking the vote. But we need to have a voice. No more silence.

Stop blaming mental health issues for mass shootings. The fact is, more often they are the victims rather than the perpetrators. Anger, hate, and racism are the main causes of mass shootings.

Reducing the mental health stigma would save lives, as two-thirds of gun deaths are suicides. I encourage those who need help, to seek help, reduce self-harm, and learn the signs of mental illness. We need to focus on prevention and training, especially of police and the public, on mental health, not more guns. We need to educate youth on how to peacefully resolve problems by conflict resolution and anger management.

We must change the culture of violence. Violent images are too common in media, entertainment, and video games. Learn to have less hatred, more tolerance, and focus on what unites us.

Allow us a vote to prevent terrorists and others on the no-fly list from buying guns and universal background checks for guns.

PRESIDENT'S SUPREME COURT RECORD

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

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, since taking office in 2009, President Obama and his administration have taken a position in 175 cases before the Supreme Court, but the President has only won 79 of those cases. That comes out to just about 45 percent.

Indeed, over the course of his Presidency, the Obama administration argued 44 cases before the Supreme Court where their position failed to get a single vote. Not even the people the President appointed to the Court agree with his position.

This number stands in stark contrast to the results from President George W. Bush, who won over 60 percent of his cases before the Court, and Bill Clinton, who won 63 percent of his cases.

Most of the cases President Obama has lost have only one thing in common: the President's view that Federal

power is virtually unlimited. Under this President, citizens must submit their liberty and freedom to whatever the government experts determine is best. The administration believes they can operate above or around the law.

Madam Speaker, the President's record in front of the Court is a disturbing trend and something that should alarm every single American.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to talk about an issue that has affected my community in San Bernardino very personally and continues to impact our neighborhoods on almost a daily basis: gun violence.

Over the past several weeks, Americans have stood together to demand action on commonsense measures to reduce gun violence. My office has dealt with full voice mails, flooded social media sites, and received countless letters asking for these commonsense reforms.

The message is the same: Background checks are basic measures that will make our communities safer while respecting the Second Amendment rights of responsible gun owners. And if you are too dangerous to fly on a plane, you are too dangerous to buy a gun.

Madam Speaker, these measures are not controversial. Keeping guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists and criminals are basic measures where both Democrats and Republicans should be able to find common ground.

I ask that this Chamber remain in session until we vote on this legislation. By foregoing bipartisan legislation to end gun violence—bills our constituents are demanding us to consider—House Republicans are playing favor to special interests.

We owe the American people a vote. If we are too scared in this body to vote on these commonsense measures out of loyalty to our special interest groups instead of our own constituents, then we need to reflect on our roles here.

□ 1230

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN AMERICA'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, each year, families across the country face difficult decisions about where they can afford to send their children to college and what institution is the best fit for them.

Students must wade through massive and often conflicting amounts of information in order to make an informed choice. Taking time to fully under-

stand the available data can be an aggravating task that may get put off and ultimately ignored, often with disastrous consequences.

I want to thank my colleagues for their support this week of my legislation to help students gain access to the facts they need to make an informed decision about where to pursue higher education.

H.R. 3178, the Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act, will begin to streamline the overwhelming maze of information currently provided to students and families at the Federal level.

It is crucial that we continue to increase transparency in the country's higher education system. This legislation is a positive step forward in that effort.

RESPONDING TO THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, last evening, we, the members of the Democratic Caucus, came together in an evening of remembrance to mark the 1-month anniversary and honor the lives of the 49 individuals who were massacred in Orlando at the Pulse Nightclub.

We are about now to leave Congress, adjourn for 7 weeks, failing in our sacred responsibility to keep the American people safe. During that time, during our recess, about 5,000 Americans will die at the hands of guns.

Too many communities have been stained by the blood of gun violence, and Congress has done nothing. We have begged and pleaded and implored and argued to bring to the floor responsible gun safety legislation, to do something to honor the lives that have been lost. Yet, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have refused—have refused to show the courage to stand up and do what is right for the American people. I pray that they find the courage to do that, and that we finally do something to reduce gun violence in this country and to honor the lives that have been lost, and to finally leave this Chamber knowing that we have responded and done something to respond to the epidemic of gun violence in America.

CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, this Nation was founded by those seeking to escape the coercive forces of governments across Europe.

This basic freedom is under assault today as radical advocates for abortion are using the coercive forces of Federal, State, and local governments to compel pro-life individuals, businesses, and healthcare providers, to act

against their deeply held religious convictions in order to keep a job or to hold a medical license or to operate a hospital, clinic or health insurance plan.

No one should be forced to violate their deeply held convictions against taking innocent lives. Yet, the Obama administration has simply refused to enforce the current conscience law, most recently in California.

With the passage of our bill, pro-life Americans will no longer be forced to appeal to this administration for relief. This bill will enable Americans to file suit in court and, once and for all, end this coercion. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this very important legislation so that the rights of pro-life Americans are restored.

CONGRESS HAS NO ZIKA PREVENTION PLAN

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, what will we tell American families when their child is born with microcephaly caused by the Zika virus?

It is not a hypothetical question. Families in Puerto Rico are already answering it. Over 276 travel-related cases of Zika have been reported in my home State of Florida, 43 cases affecting pregnant women.

In Florida, we are on the front line and we are at risk of local outbreaks. The Florida delegation on both sides of the aisle supports funding to prepare for and prevent local infections, but we still don't have a bill.

Over the 7-week recess, while Federal, State, and local officials try to prepare for Zika without the resources they need, we will need to prepare answers for these families.

Did we do all that we could to prevent an outbreak? Did we follow recommendations from scientists and infectious disease experts? Did we assure women that they don't need to be afraid to become pregnant in my State of Florida?

I wish we could say that the leadership of this Congress put the health and security of American families above partisan politics. I hope, and they better hope, that it is not too late.

WHY WE'RE HERE

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to try to do justice to a beautiful poem that won a national contest by Eliana Jaffee. And the contest is "Why I'm Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants." And Eliana Jaffee's poem is "Why We're Here."

"That morning when the sun had risen, my shores, my seas, my hopes