

knowing that, as a community, we appreciate and thank him. We also appreciate his signature cowboy hat, boots, and big silver belt buckles.

The best way to honor Rodolfo is to practice his selfless love for others, justice, and service to the community.

GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my severe disappointment about congressional inaction on the gun violence epidemic that is plaguing our communities.

Once again, we are breaking for recess without a vote on any gun violence prevention measures. This time, we will be leaving for 7 weeks—the longest period of time in recent history.

Every moment that we don't act, we flood even more streets with dangerous weapons, we equip even more criminals with guns, and we risk losing even more lives to senseless gun violence.

So for another 7 weeks, the American people have to wait for action. For another 7 weeks, Congress is neglecting its duty to the American people. For another 7 weeks, we are putting our families, friends, and loved ones at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that sometime within the next 7 weeks you will find the courage to listen to your constituents in Janesville and call up a commonsense gun violence measure for a vote.

GIVE US A VOTE

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern as the Republic majority has allowed the House to head home for 52 days without addressing the gun violence epidemic, providing resources to respond to Zika, or doing anything about the Flint water crisis. And that is just to name a few issues.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents elected us to focus on their needs: growing our economy, creating jobs, improving education for our children, improving and ensuring safety and security in their communities.

Now, we are about to leave town without handling at least these three incredibly concerning issues. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to see reason, work with us to find a path to compromise, get back to doing their jobs, and give us a vote.

SILENCE OF INACTION

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, we Democrats are here to act. The Republicans leave here with stony silence: the silence of inaction on Zika; the silence of inaction on the needs of Flint; the silence of inaction on the no fly, no buy and background checks.

Years ago there was reference to an American silent majority. Today it is the Republican congressional majority that is silent. What the vast majority of Americans want is action on Zika, action on Flint, and action on gun violence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that Republicans are adjourning the House early rather than staying to work on issues to keep Americans safe, whether that is giving us a vote to prevent dangerous people like terrorists from obtaining a machine gun or keeping toxic water from flowing in Flint, Michigan, or addressing the Zika public health crisis.

Zika really hits home for me because I represent the Tampa Bay area in the State of Florida. It was January when we had the first cases of Zika announced in Florida. It was February when public health experts, including the CDC and the President, said we need an emergency bill to develop vaccines to prevent birth defects and diagnose cases. It was March when we had hearings where public health experts expressed a sense of urgency of the Congress to act.

But here we are in July, 6 months later, with almost 300 cases in Florida, and 43 are pregnant women. We had the first case in Florida of a baby born with microcephaly. It is very serious. Those babies can't see, they can't hear, they can't walk.

I am proud of my Democratic colleagues who have remained in the Capitol to work.

I am asking: Where are the Republicans? Why did you adjourn early rather than stay here to work to keep the American people safe?

NRA: NO REPUBLICAN ACTION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, once again, here we are. Democrats are here, ready to roll up their sleeves and work to do what we need to do for the American people.

I have been to a briefing on Zika. We have seen what the whole issue around gun violence has meant for this country.

Why aren't we here to do the work of the American people? Why aren't we here to answer their call?

We have the issue in Flint.

Why would we leave Americans in the lurch without clean water to drink? Why?

My colleagues on the other side have good will, but why can we not do the things we need to do for the American people?

It is unconscionable that we have adjourned and they have left town. It is irresponsible. The people have sent us here to do the work of the people. These things are critical to moving this Nation forward, and we cannot get anything done because of NRA: No Republican Action.

□ 1500

ZIKA REPRESENTS A SERIOUS THREAT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there is no disputing it, Zika represents a serious threat to global health and security. It is irresponsible and dangerous that Republicans plan to leave Washington for a 7-week recess without providing the resources to combat this threat.

The Zika virus is spreading explosively throughout the Americas, with active local transmission in 31 countries and territories. More than 3,600 Americans, including more than 600 pregnant women in 45 States, D.C., and three U.S. territories, have already been diagnosed with the Zika virus, and more transmission is expected.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a matter of if we will have local transmission of the Zika virus in the Continental United States, it is a question of when.

Despite that risk, Republicans refuse to provide the resources to address this public health crisis. Instead, they have insisted on saddling potential funding with irrelevant and damaging partisan riders.

Make no mistake about it, without swift action, we are gambling with the health of our Nation. The time is now for Congress to work in a bipartisan fashion and provide the necessary funds to protect individuals across this Nation.

LAMEDUCK CONGRESS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans shot out of here like mice when you cut the lights on; so busy to get to their convention, their Titanic convention in Cleveland, where they will nominate Donald Trump to be their next President, all the while, leaving the people of Flint, Michigan, up the river without a paddle.

Then, on top of that, to take no action on funding Zika and to pass a bill, but no funding, is like sending soldiers into war without a weapon or, worse

yet, sending them to war with a gun that they didn't know didn't have any bullets in it.

It is really criminal that my friends from the other side of the aisle would leave America in the lurch, leaving us only 17 legislative days when we return in 7 weeks to do the work of the people, only 17 days left before the lameduck session. And, really, I believe that this Congress has been operating as a lame-duck since it began.

CONGRESS IS SILENT ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this Republican Congress has left this Chamber early without addressing a public health crisis in this country called gun violence.

The Republican Congress may find comfort in remaining silent, in doing the bidding of the gun lobby, in turning its back on the American people. But our inaction disserves our constituents and the tens of thousands of families who have lost their loved ones to gun violence. Millions more worry that they and their families are not safe, and if mothers can't sleep at night knowing their children are safe from harm, neither should this Congress.

I challenge my colleagues who have left here early to be silent to engage their communities when they go home. Find the courage to do the right thing and reject the gun lobby's heavy hand.

Let's bring the will of the American people to this body and pass commonsense legislation. Do not be on the wrong side of history. Do not bet against the American people. Stand with us to end this deadly silence.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today, the House adjourns for a 7-week recess, and House Republicans are leaving town for 52 days without any action to address the many issues before our great Nation. Yet, we find ourselves trapped, trapped in congressional inaction, with Speaker RYAN telling the American people: See you in September.

Trapped because Republicans have failed to bring legislation to the House floor that would address our Nation's gun violence epidemic.

Trapped in the height of summer because House Republicans have failed to provide critical resources to respond to the Zika health crisis.

Trapped, and the residents of Flint are still waiting for Congress to do something to help them.

Mr. Speaker, we are trapped with doing nothing Republican leadership. We should not be leaving today for 52 days in the face of so many pressing needs.

We should stay here. We should work together. We should move legislation that protects the American people. It is what our constituents expect and, most importantly, they deserve that. We should not be trapped.

IT IS TIME TO PUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE FIRST

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to do their jobs, pass legislation that moves our country forward.

House Democrats have led sit-ins here on the floor. We have led vigils on the floor, and we have demanded action at press conferences right outside the House floor. But despite it all, no real legislation has been passed on the House floor.

Speaker RYAN refuses to do the work that we were all elected to do. Ninety-seven percent of Americans have spoken. They want gun reform, not a 6-week vacation for their Representatives.

For 52 days, the Republican-led Congress has done nothing. Instead of passing commonsense legislation for gun reform, House Republicans are going on summer vacation. Instead of providing adequate funding for the Zika health crisis, House Republicans are going on summer vacation. Instead of addressing the Flint water crisis, House Republicans are going on summer vacation.

It is unacceptable. I am disappointed. It is irresponsible leadership. I call on Speaker RYAN and Congress to come back in session, finally do the work that we were elected to do.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to put the will of the people first.

CONGRESS HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in this wonderful House with so many of my colleagues to speak forcefully to the issue of unfinished business that is continuing to mount.

The silence in the House now will be deafening for 52 days. The paralysis caused in the lives of too many shows a gross sense of insensitivity and disrespect.

We are asking for action on several bills. We don't think that we should leave for these 52 days and, worse yet, close down session days before it was scheduled to close.

We have a Zika virus crisis that is gripping the lives of many, and it is starting to have its presence felt in these United States, issues that will cost us tens of millions of dollars per child because of an inaction to address the Zika virus.

We have a crisis in Flint that has not been responded to, where we have walked away from families and their needs for the given need of drinking water.

I have a bill, the Aqua bill, that we need to address on this House floor. Let's do our business. Let's not walk away from our responsibilities. Let's be sensitive to America. No vacation if we have not done our work.

CRITICAL UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, Congress has earned its longest summer recess in more than 3 decades. I mean, this session we have done so much.

Take, for example, our quick response to the Zika health crisis. Oh, wait, not that one.

Well, what about how Congress provided emergency funding to the people of Flint, Michigan? Oh, wait. Scratch that. Republicans blocked that measure as well.

But at least we were able to pass commonsense gun violence prevention laws that 9 out of 10 Americans favor.

Mr. Speaker, I think I brought the wrong list up here because the GOP majority blocked those bills from coming to the floor as well.

The reality is the Republican majority has done little to nothing to deserve this 7-week recess. Hardworking Americans elected their Members of Congress to do their job on behalf of the American people. It is shameful and embarrassing to leave town with these critical items unfinished.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SETH RICH

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues and lament that we are going home without addressing these very difficult issues.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Omaha community lost a treasured son. I stand before you today to honor the memory of 27-year old Seth Rich. Seth was returning home early Sunday morning when he was the victim of a tragic and senseless shooting just 1 block from his Washington, D.C., home.

Seth had dedicated his all-too-brief career to public service that began in high school and blossomed in college before he set out to change things for the better in our Nation's Capital. While his life was cut short, his legacy and work to expand access to voting for millions of Americans will not be lost.

Seth's family and friends remember a passionate young man out to do good works from whatever platform he was given. A Nebraskan through and through, although he now called D.C. home, Seth could be found cheering on