

registering her children for school. It turned family movie night into a horrific final act for 12 people in Aurora, Colorado. Gun violence turned a fun night out in to a final terrifying moment for 49 people in Orlando and left indelible emotional wounds in the hearts of more than 50 others who suffered injury.

Mr. Speaker, what will you do before this year ends to prevent even more unnecessary and preventable gun violence? What are you and your caucus going to do to change the fact that American children are 4 times more likely to be killed by a gun than Canadian children, 7 times more likely than Israeli children, and 65 times more likely than British children?

There is no room for your deafening silence. There is no justification for your gavel to drown out the cries of families being terrorized by gun violence. It is said that "the blood brother of apathy is the inability to prioritize that which is important."

Mr. Speaker, your apathy is America's agony. Our constituents elected us to work together to solve our Nation's biggest problems. If gun violence is not monumental, then what is? Right now, anyone can buy a gun online or at a gun show without a background check. Why does that make sense? We have a gaping hole in our system that must be closed.

Some States and municipalities already have strong, comprehensive background check laws, but many others do not, preventing laws from truly having their fullest impact. This is the case in Illinois.

I represent communities plagued by gun violence. Despite Chicago and Illinois having strong gun laws, our neighbors have very weak gun laws; so a criminal, a domestic abuser, a terrorist, or a person who is dangerously mentally unstable cannot get a gun in Illinois, but they can jump in their car, drive to a gun show in a bordering State like Wisconsin to buy a gun, and drive back to commit a horrible and preventable crime.

In a 4-year period from 2010 to 2014, 10,000 crime guns recovered in Illinois were from other States. Nearly 1,000 of the guns killing my fellow Illinois residents came from the Speaker's home State of Wisconsin. Wisconsin's lax gun laws are tied to 10 percent of Illinois crime guns.

This demonstrates what is all too obvious to 90 percent of the American public: it is the duty of Congress to pass comprehensive background checks to ensure that no matter where a dangerous person lives or travels, they cannot access a firearm.

If you are too dangerous to buy a gun in Illinois, you are too dangerous to buy a gun in Wisconsin. Forty percent of gun sales are online or at gun shows, where a background check is not required.

What if 4 out of every 10 people at an airport or right here in the Capitol didn't have to go through security?

Would we enjoy the same level of safety as we do?

Requiring comprehensive background checks is a simple, logical measure. It is embarrassing that we are even having this discussion. This isn't about taking away our constitutional right to bear arms. Law-abiding citizens who aren't dangerous and can pass a background check will still have access to their firearms for hunting, self-defense, and for personal, legal use.

So, if you are not a danger to yourself or others, is undergoing a background check in order to maintain and buy a gun really that much of a big burden? Second Amendment rights, like all other Amendments guaranteed by our Constitution, have logical limits.

Keep guns out of the hands of the terrorists killing our children, off our playgrounds and streets, and away from people who are killing police officers like the one we just heard about. Once again, I ask: Who has to get shot, and just how many have to die before you do your job, Mr. Speaker?

MINNESOTA'S HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL RECIPIENT

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work of Keith Kieffer, which has made him the deserving recipient of the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Keith began his service to this great Nation when he joined the Air Force in 1975. Three years after his enlistment, Keith received orders to go to Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands, where his mission was to clean up contamination from 43 atomic bombs that were dropped on that island.

During his time on the island, Keith cleaned up World War II wreckage as well as dug trenches, which exposed him to contaminated soil.

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Upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1978, Keith earned the title of "Atomic Veteran."

Keith is a true American hero. He selflessly put his own well-being on the line to protect future generations.

Congratulations on receiving the long, overdue Humanitarian Service Medal, Keith. Your service will never be forgotten.

REMEMBERING HAZEL YOUNGMAN

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hazel Youngmann, a St. Cloud native who dedicated her life to helping the disabled.

Hazel worked tirelessly to reform our community in order to make it more accessible for those with disabilities. She did so through her work on the Whitney Senior Center Board, the St. Cloud Parks and Recreation Board, and the Stearns County Human Services

Advisory Committee, just to name a few.

Even though Hazel had her own limitations with mobility, hearing loss, and vision loss, she pushed through and attended countless meetings despite the physical toll it took on her.

Hazel's unwavering optimism, determination, and passion for others is an inspiration and should serve as a model for the rest of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with Hazel and her loved ones during this difficult time. Be assured and comforted that her legacy will live on.

EVERSON'S HARDWARE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Everson's Hardware in Waconia, Minnesota, for 50 years of business success.

Ron and Mary Ann Everson bought the store back in 1966, when they were just a young couple with two growing children. Throughout the years, Everson's Hardware has become a well-respected and established part of the community, and the Everson family has realized their American Dream.

Eventually, Ron and Mary Ann passed the store along the way to Tracy and Deborah Everson, who continue to work behind the counter in this family store today. Small, family-operated businesses are what make Minnesota so great. They make our community special.

I want to thank the Everson family for their lasting contribution to Waconia. Congratulations and best of luck on the next 50 years.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION DAY OF ACTION

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of all Americans whose lives and communities have been affected by gun violence, and to highlight the Gun Violence Prevention Day of Action.

After the tragic 2014 mass shooting in my Congressional District on the central coast of California, our community declared that not one more life should be lost to gun violence. Yet, today I stand before this Chamber with a heavy heart to mourn the many individuals who have been killed by a gun since that tragedy. And that number is staggering.

In fact, over 2,000 men, women, and children have lost their lives to gun violence since the start of the congressional recess in July. That is 2,000 people in just 60 days. Right here in our country. Our country is better than this.

House Republicans' decision to dismiss the House for 7 weeks without so much as debating gun violence legislation is shameful. Going home to our districts without addressing life and death issues is not what the American people expect of us. They deserve better.

But here we are, back in D.C., with Democrats ready to work together to move commonsense gun safety measures. We just need a partner. We cannot ignore these problems because they are hard. We cannot stand by hoping the problem of gun violence will go away by itself. We cannot continue to shirk our duties as Representatives while those we represent are dying.

There are commonsense regulations for Congress to debate. The American people overwhelmingly support closing loopholes in the background check system for firearm sales. Democrats, Republicans, gun owners, even members of the NRA support background checks; but the Republican leadership will not debate expanded background checks.

The American people also support closing gun sale loopholes, which let dangerous individuals gain access to weapons without any review. Democratic and Republican lawmakers have introduced bills that would close gun sale loopholes, but the Republican leadership will not allow the House to debate closing these dangerous loopholes.

The American people support the no fly, no buy bill, which would prevent terror suspects—terror suspects on the FBI watch list—from purchasing weapons. This is the very least we can do. But, again, the Republican leadership will not bring up no fly, no buy for debate.

By not allowing these kinds of votes, or even these important debates, House leaders are failing the American people. We know that if we do nothing, if we don't even try, nothing will change. Our communities are hurting, and they demand action. It is time to answer that call.

Mr. Speaker, whether or not you support this legislation, the American people demand that you do your job and hold a vote on the commonsense gun legislation they overwhelmingly support. It is the least we can do.

105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, this Nation has many friends around the world, but almost no country has been a better friend to the United States than has been the Republic of China on Taiwan, or, as it is more commonly known, Taiwan.

I would like to recognize Taiwan in advance of the 105th anniversary of the founding of that great country. On October 10, the people of Taiwan will commemorate the founding of a nation which has much to be proud of in this year.

Over the past 50 years, Taiwan has undergone dramatic political, social, and economic changes, and is now the only democracy in the Chinese-speak-

ing world. This year, the people of Taiwan witnessed the third peaceful transition of power. This election was especially meaningful with the election of the first woman President, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen.

There are important common values and principles that fundamentally link the United States and Taiwan, including respect for human rights, freedom, and democracy. I commend President Tsai Ing-wen for refreshing Taiwan's commitment to renewing Taiwan's commitment to these values.

The Republic of China on Taiwan has become a trailblazer in the industrialized world with a vibrant and growing economy and a flourishing free people. Taiwan has surpassed India and Saudi Arabia to become the 10th largest trading partner of the United States. I cannot overemphasize how important this economic powerhouse and democratic ally is to the United States and to our trade relations.

While I have some very serious concerns regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership, if the United States ends up finalizing this agreement, Taiwan should definitely be included.

In the early 1960s, my father was the mayor of Knoxville, and he met at that time a man named Nelson Nee. Mr. Nee was then head of the University of Tennessee's international students program, but he later became a very successful businessman in California importing products from Taiwan. The result of Mr. Nee and my father's efforts to bring students from Taiwan to UT has resulted in a very large UT alumni group in Taipei—an alumni group of several hundred. Also, we have a very large and active Taiwan group in Knoxville and east Tennessee.

I had the privilege of spending a week in Taiwan, along with Congressman PETE SESSIONS and former Congressman Sonny Callahan, about 15 years ago. At the end of that trip, I asked one of the officials to tell me how you say in Chinese, "Thank you for your friendship." I was told that you say, "Shieh shieh ni de yo yi."

I simply will end by saying to Taiwan once again, thank you for your friendship.

UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND NO FLY, NO BUY LEGISLA- TION

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to join our Nation's great civil rights leader, JOHN LEWIS, and so many of our outstanding colleagues that have spoken out on the issue of gun violence when we had our historic sit-in in the House in June.

Our request then and our request today are the same. I think it is really rather simple. We are asking to be allowed to vote on two commonsense bills to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people—a universal back-

ground check bill that will close loopholes and no fly, no buy legislation to prevent people who are on the FBI's terrorist watch list from buying guns. Imagine, the FBI has them on a watch list but they can still buy guns. Both proposals have overwhelming support of the American people and they have bipartisan support in Congress.

Background checks are supported by 9 out of 10 Americans, and they have been proven to be successful at keeping guns out of the wrong hands. Every day, background checks stop more than 170 felons, 50 domestic abusers, and 20 fugitives from buying guns. Where these loopholes have been closed in States, such as Connecticut, the numbers have dropped dramatically.

Today, under current law, up to 40 percent of gun sales are completed with no background checks whatsoever. In our great country, no background checks whatsoever. People can buy guns online the way you can go out and buy M&Ms. Meanwhile, the most common places where the American people go—to church, to school, to movie theaters—they are under siege.

This Congress, do you know what this Congress has done, for anyone who is listening in?

We have had 31 moments of silence.

Mr. Speaker, sympathy is not enough. In fact, it comes off as being hypocritical. As sincere as people have been when they bow their heads for less than a minute, it is not enough. We have an epidemic in our country, and we can do something about it. We have bipartisan legislation.

Now, meanwhile, bills have been brought to the floor without one cosponsor. But Mr. KING's and Mr. THOMPSON's legislation, H.R. 1217, has 186 cosponsors.

Now, why can't we vote on this? Why?

I think that there is a complicity with the NRA with all of these deaths around the country, the violence that has taken place, of innocent people—children, young people, adults—and then all of the aftermath of grieving. And the families that have lost someone, they have a mark on their soul. They will grieve the rest of their lives.

We are asking for a vote. If you don't agree with me, vote "no." But, Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility, and I think a high moral responsibility, to address this. We are asking that these two bills be brought to the floor. Law enforcement supports these bills. The American people support these bills. Mr. Speaker, I think it is about time that these bills be brought to the floor. We can save American lives. Imagine that. By adopting these two bills, we can save American lives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY), someone who has been a leader on this issue.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, we need a vote. What will it take for this House, the people's House, to finally vote on commonsense, bipartisan legislation to save American lives?