

contributions of employees and volunteers who work daily to maintain public parks across the Nation.

As a lifelong resident of rural Pennsylvania and an avid outdoorsman, I strongly support our Nation's parks and recreation facilities. Our parks provide countless recreational and educational opportunities for individuals and families to engage in the outdoors.

This resolution simply recognizes and supports Parks and Recreation Month and the many benefits, including health benefits, that a healthy active lifestyle contributes in our park settings that is provided to all Americans.

Our parks generate opportunities for people to come together and experience a sense of community. They pay dividends to communities by attracting businesses and jobs and increasing housing values.

In the United States, public park operations and capital spending generates nearly \$140 million in economic activity annually.

Ninety percent of people in the United States agree that public park recreation activities and facilities are important government services, a figure that displays a base of support that spans across all people in the country regardless of race, income, gender, or political party affiliation.

Nearly 75 percent of Americans agree that it is important to ensure all members of their community have equitable access to public parks and recreation facilities. The most economically sound communities are those with ample and healthy public parks and recreation facilities and activities. In fact, a key factor in business expansion and location decisions is the quality of life for employees, with a premium placed on adequate and accessible public parks and open space.

Mr. Speaker, public parks and recreation facilities foster a variety of activity that also contribute to a healthier society. People who use public parks and open spaces are three times more likely to achieve recommended levels of physical activity than nonusers.

Americans living within a 10-minute walk of a park have a higher level of physical activity and lower rates of obesity.

Recreation programs at public parks provide children with a safe place to play, access to healthy foods, opportunities to be physically active, and enrichment facilities that help prevent at-risk behavior such as drug abuse and gang involvement.

Mr. Speaker, as our Nation celebrates Independence Day next week, scores of Americans will visit public parks and recreation facilities to spend time outdoors with family, friends, and neighbors. We are blessed with beautiful outdoor facilities. I wish everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July. Get out and enjoy the parks in your area.

#### CUTS TO MEDICAID

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of children and adults living with disabilities across the United States.

The cuts to Medicaid outlined in the dangerous Senate healthcare repeal bill will not only result in the loss of healthcare access for millions of Americans, but will also significantly reduce funding for In-Home Supportive Services in my home State of California.

Medicaid covers 50 percent of the program costs for In-Home Supportive Services. These funds provide care for an estimated 531,000 disabled children and seniors throughout California, which permits them to continue to live with dignity in their own home.

The \$772 billion cut to Medicaid outlined in this bill will have a devastating impact on seniors and people with disabilities who rely on Medicaid as their safety net for necessary long-term care services.

These cuts will directly affect the lives of my constituents, including 15-year-old Crystal from Santa Maria, California, in my district. Crystal was born with spina bifida, weighing in at just 2 pounds. She has survived under the dedicated care of her mother and grandmother, who are her primary caretakers. Crystal is covered by Medicaid, which allows her to receive specialized medical attention, adaptive medical equipment, physical therapy, and pharmaceuticals. Crystal's condition requires 24-hour care, a need that is fulfilled by the In-Home Supportive Services program. Her life is contingent upon this program.

I call upon my colleagues in the Senate to vote against this cruel healthcare repeal, also known as TrumpCare, for Crystal and the millions of our constituents like her who are at risk of losing their quality of life.

#### PLAYER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Aleshire, a senior at St. Cloud Tech High School, on recently being named the Minnesota High School Class AAA Baseball Player of the Year by the Minnesota State High School Baseball Coaches Association.

Logan is a star athlete, and due to his leadership and skills as a pitcher and shortstop, he helped lead his team to an undefeated season in this year's State tournament.

Logan excelled on the field this year, but we have known about him for a while. In fact, he has been a three-time All-Central Lakes Conference pick, and just last year he was a Times Baseball All-Area Team selection.

While his high school baseball career is coming to a close, I have no doubt we will see great things from this young man both athletically and scholastically in the future. We look forward to seeing what he will accomplish next.

#### A FARM FAMILY TO CELEBRATE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kreitlow and Ford family on being recently named the 2017 Farm Family of the Year.

Built in 1898, the Kreitlow farm has been passed from generation to generation for more than a century, with each generation teaching the next about hard work and successful farming. Today, the Kreitlow farm is successfully operated by Willard Kreitlow, his daughter Marienne, and her husband Jerry Ford.

The farm was once a dairy operation, but since 1990, the farm has mainly become a vegetable and pasture operation. However, the work the Kreitlow and Ford family has accomplished goes far beyond the fresh produce they harvest. In fact, this hardworking family goes above and beyond by striving to educate others through their work with the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota.

I want to thank the Kreitlow and Ford family for not only providing quality food for Minnesotans, but also for educating others about the benefits of sustainable farming and giving back to their community. Our State is a healthier place because of their dedicated work.

#### 50 YEARS OF GIVING BACK

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the United Way of Central Minnesota for helping families throughout our communities escape poverty for an incredible 50 years.

Over the past half century, the United Way of Central Minnesota has raised more than \$100 million, allowing them to help fund other nonprofits who provide services that help Minnesota families in need.

It is largely because of the generous contributions from the United Way of Central Minnesota that the Boys and Girls Club of Central Minnesota was able to get off the ground in the 1970s and to be able to grow into what it is today.

Thankfully, the United Way of Central Minnesota continues to grow strong. In fact, they recently announced their latest partnership with the St. Cloud School District to create neighborhood resource centers for students and their families. It is inspiring to see an organization solely devoted to helping others. Sometimes when someone is down on their luck, all it takes is a helping hand to get them back on their feet.

On behalf of thousands of Minnesotans, I would like to thank the United Way of Central Minnesota for being that helping hand for the past 50 years, and we look forward to many successful years to come.

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## GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in the 4 years that I have been privileged to represent the remarkable people and amazing communities of Illinois' Second Congressional District, I have come to this floor many times to urge action.

I have called for a budget that invests in jobs, farmers, and rural communities. I have called for action to address the trillion-dollar student debt crisis. I have called for real solutions that make healthcare affordable for all American families. I have spoken on many issues facing this House, but nothing I have spoken on is more important than protecting American lives.

I have begged for commonsense reforms that prevent children from being shot while playing at a playground. I have begged; I have pleaded; I have screamed; I have cried; and I have even ground the people's House to a halt with last year's historic sit-in.

What answer was I given? Was I given answers to take home to grieving mothers and police widows? Was I able to tell them that their loved one's death wasn't in vain and that we were going to do something to save the next life? No. I was met with silence, and worse, an active effort to silence my voice and the voice of millions of Americans.

So I ask myself: Why? What is the issue? Why can't I, an elected Representative of the American people who draws my authority directly from the United States Constitution, get something done to save lives? Why can't we get a vote on commonsense, lifesaving legislation that is supported by 90 percent of Americans and more than 70 percent of NRA members?

Mr. Speaker, tragically, the answer is simple. It is greed.

Mr. Speaker, what is the cost of your inaction? It seems that \$5,950 you took from the NRA matters more to you than the 7,490 Americans we have already lost this year to gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know that just 79 cents for an American life is the cost of your silence and inaction.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it might be easy for you to ignore the connection between those dollars and the lives lost, but I cannot—and I will not—ignore it. I will not let you ignore or forget it either.

I am going to stand here and remind you, remind the people of Wisconsin's First District, and remind all Americans that money matters more to you than these American lives. One dollar—one name. One dollar—one grieving family. One dollar—one lost American:

One dollar—Xavier Joy, 23, was a success story. He was playing football at Morehouse, was an AmeriCorps volun-

teer, and wanted to change Chicago for the better;

Two dollars—Blair Holt, 16, was killed shielding his friend on a CTA bus;

Three dollars—Hadiya Pendleton, 15, killed just weeks after performing at President Obama's inauguration.

While Chicago might make headlines, gun violence is killing people in every community, in every city, and in every town, including Wisconsin's First District.

Four dollars—Paramjit Kaur, 41, killed while trying to pray;

Five dollars—Satwant Singh Kaleka, 65, killed at the temple he founded;

Six dollars—Prakash Singh, 39, a reader at his temple;

Seven dollars—Sita Singh, 41, killed by a White nationalist for wearing a turban;

Eight dollars—Ranjit Singh, 49, murdered at his church;

Nine dollars—Suveg Singh, 84, killed while expressing his love for his God;

10 dollars—Harry Canady, Jr., 20, killed sitting on a porch in Racine;

11 dollars—Sean Bialas, 23, of Kenosha, shot and killed while physically unable to defend himself;

12 dollars—David Bauspies, 36, of McHenry, accidentally shot and killed in East Troy;

13 dollars—Jose Torres, 36, murdered on the 1600 block of Holmes Avenue in Racine;

14 dollars—Nicholas Chaulkin, 17, of Racine, killed by a domestic abuser, likely while defending his mother;

15 dollars—David Tilton, 37, of Janesville;

16 dollars—James Norris, 37, was killed at his job as a restaurant delivery driver in Racine;

17 dollars—Jeremy Trawitzki, 38, killed in Muskego;

18 dollars—Thomas Kruse, 41, killed in Muskego;

19 dollars—Joseph Hensel, 27, killed in Elkhorn;

20 dollars—Andrew Jones, Jr., 27, also killed by his friend in Racine;

21 dollars—Maurice Carter was shot and killed in a Racine County robbery;

22 dollars—Carl Nichols, 26, shot and killed by a friend in Kenosha.

## AMERICA: LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, one thing that we can all agree on is that America is the land of opportunity. Our beautiful country has remarkable stories about those young and old, who, through adversity, have gone on to achieve great things. Those human stories are often the best way for us to demonstrate why our country is so special. I would like to share two stories with you this morning.

Emily Torchiana recently visited my office while she was here in Washington, D.C., after being chosen for a

Jefferson Award for community service. Just last week, she was also awarded the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for Public Service. Emily is from Collegeville, in my congressional district, and, after her own experience with severe cyberbullying led to a suicide attempt, she began telling her story.

Emily found people would reach out to her after each speech to share their own experiences and thank her for being so open with her journey. She is now the founder of a nonprofit focused on mental health advocacy, awareness, and services.

Emily's nonprofit supports mental health workshops in schools as well as workshops for parents and teachers so adults can learn how to support children and young adults suffering from mental illness. The mission statement of Emily's nonprofit includes working to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, something I believe is a critical aspect for us all as we continue to develop and advance solutions for those facing mental illness.

Quoting from Emily's nonprofit website, she writes: "My hope is that the more people who will open up about their struggles, the more others will feel comfortable reaching out for help. . . . Unlike physical illnesses, these mental illnesses are not seen, but that does not mean they are not there. I hope this will give us all the opportunity to walk briefly in the shoes of the fellow human beings we come across every day."

Emily's work is an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations, Emily, for being recognized for your outstanding service to communities across our country, and we wish you the best of luck with your career.

Ammar Al-Rubaiay is another young adult who has an inspiring and remarkable story. A reporter in my congressional district recently shared Ammar's story with me, and I want to take a moment to share a story about opportunity, hard work, and a young man fulfilling his dreams.

A native of Baghdad, Iraq, Ammar became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2015. He was participating in a youth exchange program that transferred him to West Vincent Township, in Pennsylvania's Sixth Congressional District, where he attended Owen J. Roberts High School and ultimately attended Westtown School.

Ammar came face to face with al-Qaida before his move. In a column in 2009, journalist Michael Rellahan remembered reading Ammar's college essay.

Mr. Rellahan wrote: "In striking detail, Ammar recalled the day in June 2007 when he sat in his classroom at the Gifted Students School in his native Baghdad and a teacher came in to announce simply that: 'They are here—al-Qaida.'"

Ammar wrote in his journal: "At that time, I felt like I was a few minutes away from death, getting closer