

hike into the back country. We hiked to Black Canyon Lake, Grasshopper Glacier, Froze-to-Death Plateau, and onto the Absaroka Lake Plateau.

Tim had a tremendous impact on many lives in his 93 years, including my own. I will always be grateful for his service to our country and for his dedication as a teacher. I will miss my friend Tim Frable.

□ 1245

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MAYOR ED LEE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and an extraordinary leader, Mayor Ed Lee of San Francisco.

All who knew Mayor Lee understood him to be a true gentleman of great warmth, positivity, and kindness. His passing is not only a tragic official loss for our city, but an immense personal loss for all who were fortunate to call him friend.

Mayor Lee's first priority was always the people. His strong moral compass was rooted in his identity as the hard-working son of an immigrant family of modest means and was guided by his years as a community organizer and civil rights lawyer.

Ed fundamentally understood that the strength of a community is measured by its success in meeting the needs of all its people. He knew the rhythms and the workings of San Francisco at the most granular level, and dedicated decades to improving the lives of all San Franciscans.

As mayor, Ed Lee served with exceptional dignity and great effectiveness. His values-based, pragmatic leadership helped drive the city into a strong economic expansion.

His firm commitment to equality made immense progress toward securing affordable housing and a living wage for all. His unwavering belief in justice helped combat the moral crisis of homelessness in San Francisco, particularly for our veterans. His bold, hopeful vision for the future further secured San Francisco's role as a model city for the Nation.

Mayor Ed Lee's public service leaves an enduring, inspiring legacy that generations of San Franciscans will enjoy. As Ecclesiasticus says: The people will tell of His wisdom and the congregation will continue to sing His praise.

Mayor Lee never had an unkind word for anyone, and no one ever had an unkind word for him. Even though our hearts are broken, we think of the person Ed Lee was, and we smile.

Mayor Lee took deep pride in serving as the first Asian-American mayor of San Francisco. But his greatest source of joy was his beloved family. Our city owes a debt of gratitude to his wife, Anita; and his daughters, Brianna and

Tania, for sharing this exceptional person with us.

My deepest love and prayers are with his family. May it bring them some measure of comfort that so many people throughout the world mourn with them and continue to be inspired by him.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are joined by so many Members of Congress from the California delegation and from the Asian Pacific American Caucus as well.

TAX CUTS BILL

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am excited.

For the first time in decades, I can dare to hope that we will not crush our children's future with debt.

As our House and Senate colleagues work hard to shape the details of a final bill, we can see the goal line:

We will lower rates across the board for hardworking taxpayers in all brackets;

We will provide relief to small businesses and farms throughout our Nation so that America can compete and win; and

We will simplify the Tax Code.

Mr. Speaker, you shouldn't need an army of lawyers and accountants to do your taxes. Americans deserve a Tax Code where everyone plays by the same rules and a code that projects a lifetime of savings.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to work together, give America the healthy economy it deserves, and support the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

REAUTHORIZE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

(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, children's health is not a partisan issue. It is a human issue.

Nevertheless, the majority party let the Children's Health Insurance Program expire months ago. As a result, States across the country are going to be forced to terminate millions of underserved children's only lifeline to a doctor.

Rather than working with Democrats, the Republican leadership passed a bill that would extend CHIP, but strip health coverage from as many as 668,000 American children. Partisanship has poisoned this well.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 231,000 children in New Jersey rely on CHIP to get them to the doctor. Many more people in my State rely on community health centers, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act's prevention fund to stay healthy.

Congress must protect these programs. I urge my colleagues to pass a

bill before the end of the year to extend the funding for these critically important healthcare programs, including CHIP and community health centers, without taking healthcare away from more than half a million Americans.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues in Congress to quickly pass a 5-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

In Iowa, around 85,000 children rely on CHIP for their health. This is very important to so many families in our Third District. I am grateful a short-term solution was included as part of the continuing resolution passed last week; however, we must do more.

On November 3, the House passed legislation to extend funding for CHIP for 5 years, with the support of every Iowa Representative. However, since that time, we have been waiting for our colleagues in the Senate to act. They need to act now.

We must work together to fund this critical program which has bipartisan support and bicameral support. The health of our children is at stake. Children in low- and middle-income families will be those hit the hardest if we do not fully fund CHIP. With Iowa families left without coverage and access to needed medical services for their children, we must act.

I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to include an extension of CHIP in the important bills we will be considering in the weeks ahead, because families shouldn't be worrying about losing coverage for their children.

As Congress continues to work on the many important issues facing our country, I know I, and other colleagues, will continue to support this.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY "TIM" BRADFORD

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, my good friend Timothy "Tim" Bradford passed away last week.

Tim was a commissioner of the Cook County Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, but he was much more than that. Tim grew up on the west side of the city of Chicago, moved to the south suburbs, and became known as the godfather of politics in south suburban Cook County.

He was in love with everybody he met, involved in everything that existed, and I simply express condolences to his wife and family on his passing.

MEDIA HELPED ELECT A SENATOR

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the liberal media helped elect a U.S. Senator from Alabama. Their alliance with the Democratic Party is now so close, we should call them mediocrats. Admittedly, the mediocrats got an assist from some Republicans, as well as the candidate himself.

The primary lesson to be learned from the election is that Republicans must confront media bias. They must constantly point it out and remind the American people of this corrosive effect on our election process. Republicans should join the President exposing fake news.

The media should trust the American people with the facts, not tell them what to think. Because the media is so biased, their credibility with the American people is at an all-time low.

For the sake of our country and for the sake of fair elections, I hope the media will return to their paramount responsibility: providing the American people with unbiased news.

MOMENT OF TRUTH

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump claims he has “nothing to do with Russia,” but we have seen damning revelations: secret meetings, business and financial entanglements, and elaborate attempts to conceal information.

In any other era, these would be bombshells, but our nonstop media cycle, fueled by Trump’s constant infusions of drama, make it hard to connect the dots. It is not that we lack evidence of Trump-Russia ties, it is that there is so much, it makes your head spin.

So today, I am beginning a “moment of truth” series of speeches to point out facts that show an administration that is compromised and that not only colluded with Russia, but has obstructed justice to keep us from knowing the truth.

One of many smoking guns is from 2015, when Trump’s associate, Felix Sater, was seeking financing from a Russian bank facing American sanctions to build a Trump Tower in Moscow. This email from Sater to Trump’s personal attorney speaks for itself: “I’ll get Putin on this program, and we’ll get Donald elected.”

There is a lot more to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDY HOOK SHOOTING

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and commemorate the sad fifth anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, which took the lives of 20 innocent children and six brave educators.

Last night, I stood on the floor of the House and indicated how breathless I felt when the news came in: One child, 2 children, 3 children, 4 children, 5 children, 6 children, 7 children, 8 children, 9 children, 10 children, 11 children, 12 children, 13 children, 14 children, 15 children, 16 children, 17 children, 18 children, 19 children, 20 children, and the brave adults who tried to save their lives, including the mother of the perpetrator.

I rise today to join in the call for acts of kindness. Tomorrow, I will be giving out books at the Blackshear Elementary School. I will be giving out shoes in my district to the Forest Brook Middle School.

I hope that we understand what it is not about: guns don’t kill; people do. Guns kill.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that we have real gun safety legislation. At the same time, I hope that, as we look toward the needs of our Nation, the Children’s Health Insurance Program and those who are suffering from hurricanes will be part of our kindness.

I take a moment for these children. I honor the Sandy Hook children and the brave adults who tried to save their lives. May God bless them all.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in honoring and remembering all of the victims of the tragic shootings at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT five years ago.

Nearly five years after a mass shooter murdered 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook elementary school, Republican politicians are still blocking any attempt to pass tougher federal gun control laws.

The lack of congressional action has prompted outrage, despair, and a sense that the gun debate is intractable.

As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children’s Caucus and a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, I have listened to the tragic testimony of individuals who have survived or lost loved ones as a result of gun violence.

It is still painful for those who recall the news from Newtown, Connecticut on that day five years ago.

The story of Sandy Hook was particularly frightening for those of us who are parents or grandparents.

The community and the families directly impacted continue to reel from the inconceivable tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary on December 14, 2012.

Our hearts still ache with sadness and disbelief for the families and loved ones of the children and women who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence.

I also recognize and applaud the heroic efforts made by the teachers, administrators,

and law enforcement officials who acted quickly to secure and protect the lives of the children who survived this deadly encounter.

I, along with other parents in America, know that the healing process continues for the parents, siblings, and friends of the 20 children who died on December 14, 2012.

Our prayers go to the families and colleagues of the teachers, councilor, and principal of the school who were also killed in defense of the children in their charge.

This tragedy unlike any other in recent memory touched so many hearts and minds both in the United States and around the world that this weekend is particularly poignant.

The parents and grandparents who dropped off their children and grandchildren in the early morning hours of December 14, 2012, could never have imagined that by 10 a.m. on that morning they would have to face this tragedy.

The deaths at Sandy Hook as well as those at Aurora and Columbine will be etched in our collective memories.

These are moments when lives were needlessly lost due to gun violence.

The nation united in grief one year ago, and many of us who strong support sensible gun safety laws thought the moment had finally arrived when the policy makers, parents, teachers, and law enforcement could join efforts to make our schools, parks, sidewalks, and homes safer from gun violence.

We could all agree that the tragedy should not have occurred, but we could not find the common ground that would take any meaningful step to reduce gun violence in the United States.

We must join together in recognizing that this tragedy can happen in any community and we must immediately begin to address the underlying problems that would lead a young man to take up arms against defenseless women and children.

The tragedy of Sandy Hook took us all by surprise, but there are hundreds of other tragedies around the nation that involve children falling victim to gun violence.

Annually in the United States there are over 30,000 gun related deaths.

The total number of deaths associated with 13 years of war in both Afghanistan and Iraq is 6,778 service men and women.

No other nation had the level of gun violence per-capita as the United States unless they were actively engaged in a civil war or conflict with another nation.

There are some things that cannot be rationalized by any means—one of the things that we as policy makers have to face is the threat of gun violence to our nation, communities, and families.

I read with heartache the September 28, 2013, New York Times article, “Children and Guns: The Hidden Toll,” published in September of this year.

Some of the stories were tragic as they are familiar to those of us who work to reduce gun violence.

Lucas Heagren, 3 years old, killed by a gun he found where his father temporarily hid it under a couch.

Days later, Cassie Culpepper, age 11, who was shot and killed by her brother who thought a gun his father gave him to scare coyotes was unloaded.

A few weeks later, Alex Whitfield, age 11 was killed by a Glock pistol found in a closet by a 15 year old.