

the House Floor for these victims, and Congress is doing nothing to protect the next victim.

The White House and the National Rifle Association claim mental illness is to blame for this latest tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and that arming teachers will keep our children safe. Republicans cannot claim that mental illness is to blame, when they simultaneously cut funding for mental health treatment, undermine American's health insurance, and strip schools of resources needed to employ guidance counselors, social workers and/or more teachers to reduce class sizes and give students more individual attention.

The NRA claims any sensible action to strengthen our gun laws is an attack on the 2nd Amendment and the rights of gun owners. Nothing could be further from the truth. Democrats and Republicans must work together on meaningful reform to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic abusers, and individuals in crisis.

Recent polls show that 97 percent of gun owners approve of background checks for all gun purchases, including those made at gun shows and through private sales. According to the Pew Research Center, 33 percent of gun owners oppose the NRA's prescription to make schools safer by arming teachers.

As I've said before, all citizens have a right to basic safety and life itself. Our families should not fear the possible massacre of their children in school or on playgrounds. Everyone should be able to go to a concert or place of worship and not confront a shooter armed with high capacity ammunition magazines and a weapon of mass destruction. It is up to all of us to protect our communities, schools, workplaces, and places of worship from senseless gun violence.

I have been encouraged by the courageous young people speaking out and taking action to effect change. I hope my Republican colleagues are listening.

Every day Congress fails to strengthen our gun laws, we are complicit in the violence that takes place in our nation. We can and must do more to end gun violence.

TRIBUTE TO BILL HILLMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bill Hillman of Shenandoah, Iowa on his selection as the 2017 Outstanding Individual Leader, awarded by the Iowa Tourism Office and Travel Federation of Iowa. Bill received this honor for his work with the Everly Brothers Childhood Home, Wabash Trace Nature Trail and many other community activities.

Bill has worked tirelessly in promoting economic development and tourism opportunities in Shenandoah and the surrounding communities. Through Bill's determination and dedication, and with the use of his time and resources, he has had a direct impact on the economic future of Shenandoah.

Mr. Speaker, Bill has made a difference by helping and serving his community. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask

that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring his accomplishments and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON SAEUGLING

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Clayton Saeugling of Atlantic, Iowa, for receiving the American Future Farmers of America Degree Award. The American Future Farmers of America (FFA) Degree is the highest honor an FFA member can achieve. According to Eric Miller, FFA Advisor at the Atlantic High School, "less than one percent of the 653,359 FFA members will receive this prestigious award."

In earning this degree, Clayton had to earn and invest at least \$10,000 through a supervised agricultural program that he started, owned, and in which he held a professional position. He also had to complete 50 hours of community service, demonstrating his community commitment and leadership skills. FFA Advisor Eric Miller further added, "I am very proud of Clayton and all his hard work he has put into his project and his education." Clayton said, "getting my American FFA Degree was a once in a lifetime experience that I am glad I could be a part of. All of the time and hard work that I have put into FFA was well worth it."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Clayton for earning this award and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN AND KENNETH POLSLEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jean and Kenneth Polsley of Blanchard, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on December 23, 2017.

Jean and Kenneth's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO NOLA AND WALT PRITCHARD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nola and Walt Pritchard of Clarinda, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on December 23, 2017.

Nola and Walt's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO REV. RICHARD BLODGETT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rev. Richard Blodgett of Council Bluffs, Iowa on his recent retirement as the Pastor of Emanuel Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Blodgett has served his congregation for over 31 years.

Originally from Wisconsin, Rev. Blodgett and his family have made Council Bluffs their home for the past three decades. After high school, he studied to become a teacher and wrestling coach, but he said it just did not feel right. He entered Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois. After graduating, Rev. Blodgett began his work in Dubuque, Iowa before answering the call to serve in Council Bluffs. Rev. Blodgett plans to stay active in the community by volunteering with his spiritual experience at Fox Run Assisted Living, Jeanne Edmundson Hospital, and at the Iowa Share Food Program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Rev. Blodgett for his 31 years of dedicated and devoted service to Emanuel Church of the Nazarene. He has made a difference by helping and serving others and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on his retirement and in wishing him nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO JACOB BAUDLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob

Baudler, of Fontanelle, Iowa for earning the American FFA Degree. Jacob was recently awarded this degree at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was a member of the Nodaway Valley FFA Organization and is the son of John and Darla Baudler.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experience. Jacob had to meet certain requirements, such as studying agriculture for three years in high school, earning money in an agriculture field and investing that money into their business, participation in community service and having a record of outstanding leadership ability and community involvement. The work toward this degree involved many years of hard work and dedication in agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jacob in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to reach his goals. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jacob on receiving this esteemed designation and in wishing him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY AND RONALD
CONLEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Betty and Ronald Conley of Mount Ayr, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on January 3, 2018.

Betty and Ronald's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CLEO HAWTHORNE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cleo Hawthorne of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very special occasion of celebrating his 105th birthday on December 31, 2017.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Cleo's life. Since his birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones, and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism, and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Cleo has lived through nineteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In his lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Cleo in the United States Congress and I'm proud to recognize him today on this momentous occasion. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO DARLENE AND
DONALD WIMMER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Darlene

and Donald Wimmer. They were awarded the 49th Annual Community Christmas Candle in December 2017 at the Afton Methodist Church.

Service to their community and their church began over 70 years ago. Donald has served as a key leader at the Arispe Methodist Church for years and has served on the Food for Life committee. Darlene taught Bible and Sunday school for many years while Donald also outfitted his barn so Arispe kids had a place to play basketball. They have both also volunteered their time at Greater Regional Medical Center and with hospice.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Darlene and Donald for receiving this award and I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Darlene and Donald and in wishing them both nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO KARLA AND BILL
LIVINGSTON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Karla and Bill Livingston on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary on December 30, 2017.

Karla and Bill's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.