

transfer of ownership of a semiautomatic firearm, silencers, armor piercing ammunition, or large capacity ammunition magazines.

According to Newsweek, the “Gun Safety Not Sorry Act” is the No. 1 legislative proposal that Congress can and should pass right now.

The majority must cut its close ties to the powerful gun lobby to facilitate useful gun control legislation necessary immediately.

The “Gun Safety Not Sorry Act will not abridge the Second Amendment, it will not take away gun rights, and it does not impose greater restrictions on gun ownership—it will not stop all mass shootings but it will certainly help.

In the wake of the horrific Valentine’s Day mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, the emboldened survivors of the high school shooting are calling for immediate gun reform.

States with tighter gun control laws have fewer gun-related deaths.

I will soon introduce legislation to keep our children safe from mass shootings: the “No More Atrocities with Guns Act” (No MAGA Act) raises the minimum age from 18 to 21 for a person to purchase or possess semi-automatic assault weapons.

Teenagers, whose brains are not yet fully developed should not yet be entrusted with a weapon that is designed to inflict maximum damage in minimum time.

Americans cannot understand how it is legally possible for a 19-year-old mentally unstable person to purchase such a highly lethal weapon such as the AR-15 assault rifle and then use that weapon to slaughter 17 high school students.

Although Americans say they want to protect the right to bear arms, they are very much supportive of many gun policy proposals—including some fairly contentious ideas, such as more background checks on private and gun show sales and banning semi-automatic and assault-style weapons.

Mass shootings occur more frequently in states that do not require background checks for all gun sales.

Analyses of mass shootings in the United States between 2009 and 2015 document that the majority of mass shootings occur in venues where the carrying of firearm is not restricted.

In states that require background checks for all handgun sales, including guns offered in unlicensed sales online and at gun shows, there are 52 percent fewer mass shootings.

Congress must take action to prevent other incidents such as the recent act of terror and hatred in Parkland, Florida that resulted in the tragic loss of 17 innocent lives.

There have been 32 moments of silence observed on the House Floor related to Gun Violence since 2012.

The time for moments of silence has long since passed.

The American people are demanding moments of action.

I pledge to continue to work to reduce gun violence and prevent mass shootings.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARCUS RASKIN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of a strong voice in the progressive movement, and a great mentor and friend, Marcus Raskin. Marcus’ exceptional work as a national security staffer, political theorist, and progressive thought leader has deeply shaped our nation’s consciousness about war, economic inequality, and civil rights.

Born in 1934 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Marcus initially pursued a career as a pianist, before changing direction and studying law and policy at the University of Chicago. After attaining his law degree, Marcus moved to Washington D.C. and became a staffer for Representatives Robert W. Kastenmeier & James Roosevelt.

He quickly distinguished himself as a leading voice of liberal thought, and was hired as staff on the National Security Council by President Kennedy’s National Security Advisor, McGeorge Bundy. He also later served in the Bureau of the Budget (now the Office of Management and Budget), and the Presidential Panel on Education.

Following his service in the Kennedy Administration, Raskin formed the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) along with Richard Barnett. As a progressive policy think-tank, IPS was the first of its kind. To this day, the institute remains committed to economic and racial justice, climate justice, peace and foreign policy, community engagement, and leadership development.

Marcus also played a pivotal role in the release of the Pentagon Papers during the Nixon Administration. His criticisms of the Vietnam War and American military policy led to Daniel Ellsberg noticing Marcus and relying on his help to get the leaked documents to reporters at the New York Times. This initiated a watershed moment in our country’s history about the need for transparency and accountability in government.

I first met Marcus Raskin, during the mid-1970’s, while I worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Ron Dellums, and I am grateful to him for his wise counsel over the years. Marcus was one of the first to congratulate me on my election to Congress, and acted as a reassuring confidant as I considered my vote against the overly broad 2001 authorization to use military force.

Marcus Raskin passed on December 24, 2017, and is survived by his wife, Lynn, and his children Erika, Eden, Noah, and my colleague in Congress—JAMIE.

Today, on behalf of California’s 13th Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Marcus Raskin for his moral leadership and to thank him for his mentorship. I cherish my time serving alongside his son, Representative JAMIE RASKIN of Maryland’s 8th Congressional District and wish my sincere condolences to the rest of his surviving family.

THE INVALUABLE HELP OF ANDY IGREJAS IN STRENGTHENING THE LAUTENBERG TSCA REFORM ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions Andy Igrejas has made in improving the lives of the American people through his tireless advocacy and expertise in reducing public exposure to harmful chemicals.

A native of Bloomfield, New Jersey and a proud graduate of Rutgers College, Andy has worked on environmental health and government reform issues in New Jersey, California, and Washington, D.C. over his decades of service.

Every day, we see the steps the Environmental Protection Agency is taking to implement the Lautenberg TSCA Reform law passed in 2016. While that implementation is so far not living up to the letter of the law, we will continue to work to hold the EPA accountable for meeting its essential duty under the law: removing toxic chemicals from commerce and from our homes.

We are only able to do this because of important changes that were made in the Lautenberg Act as it went through Congress—changes that came about because of Andy’s tireless work and dedication as Executive Director of the Safer Chemicals Healthy Families Coalition.

The work to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act began in earnest in 2009, when the major stakeholders published principles for reform. It was that year that Andy organized the Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition to create a unified voice for health, environmental, and labor organizations interested in advancing chemical policy reform.

With Andy as its director, the coalition has grown to include 450 organizations and small businesses from across the country and across the political spectrum. By unifying these groups, Andy made their voices stronger, strong enough to stand up to extraordinary expenditures from industry interests.

Andy’s work also kept the interest in TSCA reform alive when negotiating a deal seemed impossible. Andy’s appreciation for the role of entrepreneurship and the private sector in creating positive social change led to the coalition’s decision to launch Mind the Store, an initiative challenging the nation’s largest retailers to restrict hazardous chemicals in their supply chains. It was that effort at the retail level, along with legislative efforts in the states, which kept industry at the table pursuing a comprehensive federal program.

I want to thank Andy for his bold thinking, tireless efforts, and strategic counsel to me and my staff, without which many of the public health and environmental improvements in the Lautenberg TSCA reform law would not have been possible.

SPECIAL OLYMPIAN, “BEEBO”

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once Brendan West picked up a basketball, he was never able to put it down. Nicknamed “Beebo,” Brendan is a 22 year old Special Olympian from Houston, Texas, who has become an aficionado of the game of basketball.

Beebo has Roberts Syndrome, a genetic disorder that delays the growth of limbs and facial features. He was born without arms, so naturally he learned to do everything with his feet. His father, Ray, and his mother, Ann, adopted Beebo when he was 6 weeks old. Doctors told his parents he wouldn’t be able to do anything other than eat and go to the bathroom. His diagnosis didn’t keep Beebo down for long, continuing to defy the odds.

Just about anytime and anywhere, you can find a smile on Beebo’s face and a basketball between his feet. Beebo first learned how to play basketball when he was in Jr. High. With just his feet, he is able to dribble and shoot the ball with deadly accuracy. His basketball skills have earned him multiple titles and propelled him forward as an award winning Special Olympian. Beebo was even honored with an honorary ESPY, the Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Award, last year. The basketball star has shot hoops with NBA player James Harden and even played with the world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters. Beebo is not only an amazing basketball player, but also an exceptional bowler and tennis player, winning gold medals in both events.

Perhaps the most shining quality Beebo exudes is his personality. When you step onto a basketball court, you can hear Beebo’s laugh echoing from every corner. His enthusiasm for the game of basketball and life is infectious, and he inspires everyone around him.

I am honored to be able to spread the inspiring story of Beebo. His resiliency, determination, and grit all are to be admired and something we should all seek in our lives.

He is the perfect embodiment of what it means to be a Special Olympian and Houstonian. Keep playing basketball, Beebo, we will all be cheering him on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on Monday February 26 and Tuesday February 27, 2018. I had intended to vote “yes” on Roll Call vote 81, “yes” on vote 82, “no” on vote 83, “no” on vote 84, “no” on vote 85, “no” on vote 86, “no” on vote 87, “yes” on vote 88, “no” on vote 89, “yes” on vote 90, and “yes” on vote 91.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to an excused absence on February 14, 2018, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Vote Nos. 72 through 78. Had I been present I would have voted in the following matter:

On Roll Call Vote No. 72 on ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 736 I intended to vote NAY.

On Roll Call Vote No. 73 on Agreeing to the Resolution for H. Res. 736 I intended to vote NAY.

On Roll Call Vote No. 74 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 3542, Hamas Human Shields Prevention Act, as amended, I intended to vote YEA.

On Roll Call Vote No. 75 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 129, Calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States, I intended to vote YEA.

On Roll Call Vote No. 76 on Motion to Recommend with Instructions H.R. 3978, TRID Improvement Act, I intended to vote YEA.

On Roll Call Vote No. 77 on Passage of H.R. 3978, TRID Improvement Act, I intended to vote NAY.

On Roll Call Vote No. 78 on Passage of H.R. 3299, Protecting Consumers Access to Credit Act of 2017, I intended to vote NAY.

IN HONOR OF HOWARD AND JOAN KUNESH’S 71ST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Howard and Joan Kunesh on the celebration of their 71st Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Howard and Joan on the celebration of their 71st Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

PI KAPPA ALPHA 150TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to recognize the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity—a values-based men’s fraternal organization with more than 225

chapters in the United States and Canada, approximately 16,000 undergraduate members, and over 290,000 lifetime members. In 2018, Pi Kappa Alpha celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding on March 1, 1868 at the University of Virginia when six young men joined together and resolved to form a fraternity for the establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis. Their commitment to high ideals of scholarship, leadership and gentlemanly behavior remain strong to this day.

In 1868 there were 38 states. Pi Kappa Alpha predates two rows of stars on the American Flag. The nation of Canada, home to several Pi Kappa Alpha chapters, was founded one year earlier in 1867. The first organized baseball and football games were played in 1869. Coca-Cola was founded in 1886 and basketball was first played in 1891.

Pi Kappa Alpha has persevered and grown through world wars, generational and cultural changes, depressions, recessions, and other challenges on college campuses that have at times threatened its existence. Its members have explored space, served as leaders of business and industry, filled the ranks of public servants in the arenas of education, government and the military; authored books; performed on athletic fields and entertainment venues.

Throughout its history Pi Kappa Alpha has answered the call to arms to preserve and protect the United States of America and its friends and allies. More than 600 Pi Kappa Alphas are recognized as Gold Star Heroes, making the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts dating back to the Spanish American War and including the War on Terror today.

Pi Kappa Alpha has prepared nearly 300,000 men to lead on their campuses and in their homes, communities, and businesses. It has endured and it thrives today because valuing friendship, showing love for your fellow man and defending the truth of its ideals are timeless, lifelong virtues.

Nearly 16,000 PIKE student members are impacting and influencing their campuses and communities today, serving as leaders in student government, Interfraternity councils, sports teams and student organizations. Collectively, PIKE chapters annually perform over 360,000 hours of community service and donate more than \$3.6 million to philanthropy.

These student leaders are supported by 2,500 men (and women) who volunteer to serve on advisory boards and house corporations. Over 150 alumni associations ensure that the admonition, “Once a Pike, Always a Pike,” remains true, inspiring the lifetime fraternal experience for its members.

Pi Kappa Alpha seeks to enrich the undergraduate experience and the quality of its volunteer support through a comprehensive, industry-leading educational program that incorporates all aspects of the Fraternity including scholastic performance, personal development, leadership training, innovative learning, community engagement, campus involvement and participation.

Today, in its 150th year, Pi Kappa Alpha calls upon its members to live anew its legacy, to reflect on the principles of its Founders and to commit to a strong future for its great brotherhood. As a proud member of the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity, I would like to congratulate the fraternity on its 150 years of success.