

including 40 children and teens. And since 1970, more Americans have been killed by guns than Americans killed in all of our nation's wars combined.

The numbers are simply staggering.

H.R. 4909 will help schools develop violence prevention strategies, strengthen school security, and help educators and law enforcement prevent students from hurting themselves or others. But Congress should be doing much more to prevent gun violence. The majority of the American people—and the majority of gun owners—want Congress to take action.

The American people deserve open floor debates or straight up or down votes on commonsense measures such as banning “bump stocks” which make guns more lethal, forming a select committee on gun violence, requiring background checks for all gun sales, and allowing the Centers for Disease Control and other federal health agencies to conduct crucial gun violence research.

Americans deserve a society that is free from the regular threat of gun violence. The status quo is unacceptable. We have a responsibility to pursue change.

RECOGNIZING CHAD AND DEB BREMMER FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud to rise today, on National Ag Day, to congratulate Chad and Deb Bremmer of Pearl City, Illinois on receiving the National Outstanding Young Farmers Award.

Chad and Deb are being recognized for their great contributions to our agricultural community, and for their efforts to foster a deeper understanding of the role farmer's play in our region's economy. In addition to operating their family farm, Chad has gone above and beyond by serving on the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Board for twelve years, the Pearl City School Board for eight years and the State Young Leader Committee for four years. In addition, Deb also serves as a nurse. Their work has without a doubt invested in the future of our region, and the lives of our family farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chad and Deb for their service to better our communities. It is because of hardworking families like the Bremmers, that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. I congratulate them again on their well-earned achievement and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVISIONS BAKERY & RESTAURANT

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Provisions

Bakery & Restaurant, located in Armory Square in my district in Syracuse, New York.

In coordination with AccessCNY, Provisions Bakery & Restaurant operates a job training program for individuals living with disabilities in our community. The mission of Provisions is to empower all of its employees, individuals of all abilities, to work in a positive and supportive environment and gain skills needed to secure and maintain competitive employment.

In its three decades, the bakery has sold more than 200,000 of its signature chocolate chip cookies, but more importantly has positively impacted over 1,000 lives.

Provisions trainees work alongside professional staff learning all aspects of the bakery from cooking and baking, to serving and cleaning. Trainees develop employment skills such as time management, interpersonal skills and how to manage workplace expectations, which will improve their access to employment opportunities across Central New York.

Throughout the years, Provisions has become a staple in the Armory Square restaurant and business community, and I am proud to congratulate the employees of Provisions on the occasion of 30 years in business.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF NANCY ANN KUNOVICH

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Nancy Ann Kunovich, age 82, who passed away peacefully on March 11, 2018.

Nancy was born on September 25, 1935 in Youngstown, Ohio. Nancy was married to Charles Kunovich and together they raised 5 children. In addition to being a mom, Nancy worked for the Austintown School District for over 30 years as one of the pioneers behind the “I Can” Program. Nancy's compassion and devotion throughout the program inspired countless young people to turn their lives around.

After retiring in 2005, Nancy moved to Manchaca, Texas. She enjoyed spending her retired life gardening, reading, cooking, and so much more. Her greatest pride and joy came in spending time with her family and friends. Her step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren lovingly referred to her as Grandma Nancy.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband Charles, her daughter Elizabeth Blockinger, her parents Hannah and William Richards, and her brother William Richards, Jr. Nancy is survived by her children Glenn Johnson and wife Norma, daughter Lynda Self and husband Carl, daughter Christine Johnson; son, Eric Johnson and grandchildren Eric Betts, Kate Kam, and Hannah Blockinger. Nancy also leaves five step-children behind; Kathy Joyce and husband David, Michelle Chance and husband Joe, Charles Kunovich Jr., Mary Jo Cusack and husband Jim, Michael Kunovich and wife Michelle.

I had the pleasure of knowing Nancy's son Glenn. She was a beloved mother and grandmother, and I know she is dearly missed. I extend my deepest condolences to Glenn and his family.

SOCCER STAR AND SPECIAL OLYMPIAN, MATT WEISER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Matt Weiser loves nothing more than lacing up his cleats and hitting the soccer field. Matt is a skilled player and is lightning on his feet, but a few years ago, you wouldn't think that could have been possible.

When Matt was in the second grade, he started experiencing epileptic seizures. The seizures started to become so severe his parents and doctors decided it was time to perform surgery. The operation required removing part of his brain, which rendered Matt speechless and paralyzed. After many rounds of therapy and the love and care of his family, Matt performed the unimaginable. He learned how to speak and walk again. Walking turned to running, and running eventually took him back to his first love, soccer.

Matt started playing soccer when he was five. He competed in events all the way up until his surgery. After Matt learned how to walk again, he got right back on the field. His passion for soccer led to competing in the Special Olympics, which led to competing on the national stage. The Special Olympics has allowed Matt to pursue his dream of playing soccer and has been an invaluable resource to him and his family.

As soon as Matt steps onto the soccer field, his exuberance and passion for life shines through. The dedication he has shown, just to get to where he is today, is exceptional. Being able to bounce back after a life altering surgery is a true testament to Matt's determination to better himself. Of course, it wouldn't have been possible without the help of his family and his parents, John and Rebecca. Sometimes life throws you a curve ball, but how you react to it and handle it, makes all the difference.

I am honored to be able to spread Matt's inspiring story today. I am also proud to say Matt is a native of the great city of Houston, Texas. As Texans and Houstonians, we pride ourselves in hard work and Matt exemplifies that very quality. I have no doubt Matt will continue to dominate in the sport he loves and we will all be there cheering him on.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF MILDRED LESLIE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Mildred Leslie on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

I join her friends and family in extending my best to her on this occasion and in celebrating her life and many contributions to our great state and county. I hope she uses this momentous day to do the same.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Mildred Leslie on her birthday. May her year be filled with happiness and blessings.

2018: THE YEAR OF THE BLACK
WOMAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today during Women's History Month to honor the extraordinary accomplishments made by Black women throughout our nation's history.

In 1987, Congress declared March to be National Women's History Month, giving the nation the chance to reflect on and salute the trailblazers who paved the way for many of the rights women have today.

I am blessed to be able to stand upon the shoulders of such great Black women, who sacrificed so much to help secure equal rights for all Americans, including generations yet unborn.

Some are household names, such as Rosa Parks.

In her defiance to give up her bus seat on a Montgomery City Bus in December 1961, she sparked the peaceful 381-day Montgomery bus boycott, leading to the desegregation of our nation's public transportation systems.

There is also Shirley Chisholm who in 1968 became the first Black woman elected to Congress.

Only four years later, she became the first woman to seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

In my own state of Ohio, there is Ellen Walker Craig-Jones, the first Black woman to be elected mayor in the United States by popular vote.

Ohio also gave us Irene Long, the first female chief medical officer at the Kennedy Space Center.

These women, and so many others, helped make it possible for me to stand here, on the floor of the House of Representatives, with my fellow women of the Congressional Black Caucus.

We owe them a debt of gratitude.

But, this Women's History Month, not only should we honor the history that has been made; we should look forward, to the history that will be made.

We are so fortunate to have Black women who continue to lead the way:

Public servants like new Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms;

Organizers and advocates like those who led the Women's March; and Patrisse Cullors, who co-founded Black Lives Matter; and Tarana Burke, who first used "Me Too" to raise awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and assault in our society.

Women continue to face workplace discrimination, a higher risk of sexual assault, and an earnings gap that will cost the average woman hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of her working lifetime.

"Me too," a simple phrase turned hashtag, has galvanized millions into action, letting those who continue to treat women as second-class citizens know that time's up.

Countless more Black women are unknown outside of their own families and communities, but still deserve admiration:

The Black women who sent a message to this administration, by showing up in Alabama to vote in the first Democratic Senator from the state in 25 years;

The Black women who have marched and continue to do so to have their voices heard;

The Black women who will attend school and college against the odds, who will run for office, who will fight for what they believe.

All are part of our history and their courage and dedication have helped to sustain the American spirit by breaking down barriers, cre-

ating new opportunities, and inspiring the next generation.

Still, there is more work to be done to provide women with the economic security and opportunities they deserve and their families need.

We must diversify our workplaces to reflect what our communities look like.

Statistics show that companies with more racial, ethnic, and gender diversity are more likely to be successful.

When women—and in particular, women of color—are allowed to succeed, then we all succeed. That has been true throughout our nation's history.

It is my honor to celebrate Women's History Month by recognizing all those who came before me, to continue to work every day to create an even brighter future for all Americans.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM STRAHAN'S
100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to William Strahan on the celebration of his 100th birthday.

I join his friends and family in extending my best to him on this occasion and in celebrating his life and contributions to our great state and country. I hope he uses this momentous day to do the same.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to William Strahan on his birthday. May his year be filled with happiness and blessings.