

Katrina Roddenberry, a science teacher at Wakulla Middle School, was selected by the Space Foundation as one of 31 educators worldwide who were honored for her work promoting science and space curricula at Wakulla Middle School. Along with this honor, Ms. Roddenberry and her colleague, Melissa Martin, were selected to work with NASA as part of their Microgravity University for Educators 2018 Challenge.

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will give these teachers and four of their students the chance to work directly with the experts at NASA. It is clear that they are inspiring a love of science and space in their students. These teachers are forming not just strong minds but also strong characters and big hearts in young men and women with a sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Roddenberry and thanking her for instilling a love of science and space in our next generation.

HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK OF THE CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA DIGITAL LEARNING FOUNDATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this morning I was at the Central Pennsylvania Digital Learning Foundation in Duncansville to speak about my work on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The Central Pennsylvania Digital Learning Foundation Charter School offers a customizable cyber education for students throughout Pennsylvania. Its learning experience connects, engages, and empowers every student to be successful in reaching their academic and personal goals for today and tomorrow.

This school was developed from the ground up by the area superintendents in collaboration with Intermediate Unit 8. The IU8 was created to furnish a broad range of educational services to the 35 public schools, 5 area vocational-technical schools, 2 charter schools, and approximately 81 non public schools in west central and southwestern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, we must understand that there are numerous educational environments, and many students thrive in a cyber school-style setup. The IU8 is doing tremendous work to ensure that students who choose a cyber school education are receiving the same quality education as their peers who attend brick-and-mortar schools. I am proud of the work they are doing.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, our hearts are heavy grieving for the 17 innocents murdered in Parkland. We are praying for their families and friends.

I cannot begin to fathom the sorrow of parents who must bury a child. From the time our children are born, we instinctively understand it is our responsibility to protect them; but, increasingly, as a nation, we are failing our children and allowing them to be gunned down in schools, at concerts, and in houses of worship.

Still, in this darkest of time, I see reason to hope. I am inspired by the eloquence of the survivors and the young people across the country who are speaking out for positive action.

We all know there are commonsense actions that would curb gun violence in our communities and save lives: universal background checks; banning military-style assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and bump stocks; and funding mental healthcare, to name but a few.

These measures have the overwhelming support of the American people. All that is missing is the political will from Congress. Hopefully, this moment will be different.

I urge my colleagues to listen to the voices of our young people. Let's have the debate and vote on real actions to reduce gun violence in our schools, our neighborhoods, and our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF SALLY HARRISON

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of Sally Harrison.

Sally is the president and CEO of the Mesa Chamber of Commerce. She has worked in this role since 2013. Mesa's business environment is thriving with her at the helm.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Sally led the meeting at Arizona State University Polytechnic campus with Congressman JIM BRIDENSTINE and the Mesa Industry and Defense Council. Under her leadership, this unique council continues to highlight the tremendous technological and manufacturing capabilities we have in my district. There have been positive reports of the discussion she facilitated, and I am confident that she will continue to cre-

ate these opportunities for my constituents.

These conversations between local officials, Federal office holders, and business leaders are paramount to ensuring that our constituents receive the best possible representation. Sally understands this and is working every day to facilitate enduring success in Mesa and our region.

I thank her for her service to our great city.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we have been out of session for a week, and much has happened in America. Of course, the most dreadful thing is Parkland, Florida, and the Douglas High School. I shed quite a few tears thinking about those students and looking at the teachers who lost their lives.

The system failed. The FBI failed to follow up. Apparently, the sheriff's department failed to follow up. Mr. Speaker, our President failed because he failed to see the problem that we have in this country is not giving teachers guns, but giving teachers more respect and giving them more counselors and giving them more aid to be able to teach. He failed to see that the problem is not just in schools, where it is so important and there have been shootings and killings, but there are killings in Texas churches and in Las Vegas concerts, and by people over 21 years of age.

Banning bump stocks, which was the response to Las Vegas, is right and good and needs to be done by law to be done legally. Banning assault weapons being purchased by under 21-year-olds is good, but we need to ban assault weapons for everybody, for the 58 victims in Las Vegas as well as the victims in that church in Texas—and high-capacity magazines. We need to let the CDC study. We need to act.

God save America and the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

ASHLYNNE MIKE AMBER ALERT IN INDIAN COUNTRY ACT

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 772) to amend the PROTECT Act to make Indian tribes eligible for AMBER Alert grants, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 772

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act”.

SEC. 2. AMBER ALERT GRANTS FOR INDIAN TRIBES.

Section 304 of the PROTECT Act (34 U.S.C. 20504) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Attorney General shall carry out a program to provide grants to States and Indian tribes for—

“(1) the development or enhancement of programs and activities for the support of AMBER Alert communications plans; and

“(2) the integration of tribal AMBER Alert systems into State AMBER Alert systems.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) the integration of State or regional AMBER Alert communication plans with an Indian tribe; and”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “The Federal” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) WAIVER OF FEDERAL SHARE.—If the Attorney General determines that an Indian tribe does not have sufficient funds available to comply with the Federal share requirement under paragraph (1) for the cost of activities funded by a grant for the purpose described in subsection (b)(4), the Attorney General may increase the Federal share of the costs for such activities to the extent the Attorney General determines necessary.”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “for grants under” and inserting “and standards to improve accountability and transparency for grants awarded under”;

(5) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g);

(6) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.—In this section, the term ‘Indian tribe’ means a federally recognized Indian tribe or a Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation (as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)).”;

(7) in subsection (g)(1), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “2004” each place it appears and inserting “2019”; and

(B) by striking “subsection (b)(3)” and inserting “paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b)”.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report evaluating the readiness, education, and training needs, technological challenges, and specific obstacles encountered by Indian tribes in the integration of State or regional AMBER Alert communication plans to—

(1) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 772, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be a sponsor of the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act, in memory of the life of Ashlynne Mike.

I want to thank the House leadership and Chairman GOODLATTE for bringing this bill before the House for consideration.

Eleven-year-old Ashlynne lived in the Navajo Nation, the largest Indian reservation in the United States, located in four States: Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Her favorite color was yellow, and she enjoyed playing music for her friends and family. She was a kindhearted young girl who had enormous potential.

After school on Monday, May 2, 2016, while Ashlynne and her 9-year-old brother Ian waited and played near the local bus stop, a stranger approached and lured them into his vehicle by offering them a ride home.

He abducted the children and took them to a remote part of the reservation, where he abused Ashlynne, slaughtered her, and left her brother to fend for himself in the desert. Ashlynne died alone.

Ashlynne had been abducted around 4 p.m. Her father filed a missing person report at 6:53 p.m., within 3 hours. Unfortunately, authorities did not send an AMBER Alert until 2:30 a.m. on Tuesday, almost 10 hours after Ashlynne went missing.

According to law enforcement records, Tom Begay, Jr., Ashlynne's perpetrator, admitted that Ashlynne was alive when he left her stranded in the desert.

Mr. Speaker, had Indian Country been included as partners in the

AMBER Alert plans, law enforcement might have rescued Ashlynne in time. She might still be alive and with us today.

When a child is abducted, action in those first hours is crucial to their safe return. The AMBER Alert program has proven effective at instantly providing information to the public to assist in the effort.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, of the AMBER Alerts issued in 2016, 94 percent of the recovered children were found within the first 72 hours, including 47 percent who were found within the first 3 hours.

Between 1997 and February 2017, the AMBER Alert program has been credited with the safe recovery of 868 children. AMBER Alerts save lives.

Today, we have the opportunity to ensure all children may benefit from the AMBER Alert program if necessary, no matter where they reside.

This bill will reauthorize the Department of Justice grant program that assists State and local governments in developing and implementing AMBER Alert communications plans. It will explicitly require the Department of Justice to perform a needs assessment of AMBER Alert capabilities on Indian reservations.

It will also, for the first time, require funds be used to integrate Tribal AMBER Alert systems with those of neighboring jurisdictions to ensure that AMBER Alerts reach as many people as swiftly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank House leadership and Chairman GOODLATTE for bringing this bill forward and acknowledging the importance of filling a gap in our AMBER Alert system that might have prevented the death of Ashlynne.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. If enacted, this bill will help to build a truly national and cohesive network of AMBER Alert.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 772, the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act. I strongly favor this important legislation because it will provide Indian Tribes with the ability to respond quickly to child abductions, thereby increasing the chances that we can avert catastrophe.

Through the grant program reauthorized by S. 772, Tribal law enforcement agencies would develop the capacity to immediately initiate their own AMBER Alerts and allow Tribal alert systems to be integrated with the more advanced AMBER Alert communications plans of State and regional law enforcement.

The AMBER Alert program is a powerful tool that engages geographically targeted networks of law enforcement, broadcast and transparency agencies, digital signage companies, internet service providers, and the wireless industry to issue urgent notifications in