

They tell it is mental health. The American people do not have mental health rates or lack of mental health 1,000 times or 10 times or 20 times or 40 times more than people in Western Europe or Japan or Australia. You cannot explain a difference of 75 or 150 to 33,000 by mental health.

They tell us we should arm teachers, but we know that trained police officers hit their targets about a third of the time when they fire a gun and, in a gunfight, when the adrenaline is running, 13 percent. If we arm the teachers, we will have more teachers and more students killed.

We have a President who has shown cowardice. He criticized Senator TOOMEY for being afraid of the NRA, and then he, after meeting with the NRA, backed down on everything he said he would do.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, we know what to do. We are the only country in the world with the kind of gun murder rates that we have.

The Republicans have opposed all the measures that we ought to take, but the Republicans have a choice. They can continue to be complicit in their repeated slaughter in our schools, in our churches, in our concert halls, and in our streets by continuing their cowardly subservience to the NRA, or they can act to protect us and our children. They know how to do it. They cannot have it both ways. Let's see what they do.

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

□ 1100

IN SUPPORT OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the NRA—the NRA—the NRA stands for “No Republican Action.”

It has been a month since 17 children and their teachers were gunned down while at school in Parkland, Florida. It has been more than 5 years since 26 children and their teachers were slaughtered in Sandy Hook.

In both of these instances, the same weapon was used: an AR-15 semiautomatic assault rifle.

And Congress still has taken no action to end gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, there have been more than three dozen moments of silence related to gun violence since the Sandy Hook massacre. There have been zero moments of action.

As those of us who are married or have children know, the silent treatment doesn't work at home. Well, it surely isn't working in Congress. There are dozens of reasonable gun safety bills pending in this esteemed legislature, but the majority party is giving the American people the silent treatment.

NRA: No Republican action.

Meanwhile, between the moments of silence, around 7,000 children have been killed by guns since 2012.

NRA: No Republican action.

Let us take action on Mr. CICILLINE's assault weapon ban to end the flood of new semiautomatic assault weapons onto the streets.

Let us take action on Mr. THOMPSON's bill to strengthen the background checks.

What is the problem with making sure that we check each person's background? Does the NRA say that that is wrong, too?

There is no Republican action.

Let us take action on my Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act to encourage people to safely, freely make the economic decision to self-disarm and dispose of most of their violent weapons.

Mr. Speaker, the NRA spends tens of millions of dollars in our elections. I received a grade of F. It is the first F that I have ever gotten that I was proud of.

What do the American people get?

They get no Republican action. Let us end the silence of inaction.

GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS HELP CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today marks 1 month since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; 1 month since we lost 14 students and 3 teachers in yet another senseless act of gun violence; 1 month since the survivors inside those hallways have seen their lives changed forever.

The survivors and the grieving families are not just grieving their loss. They are helping to change the direction of this Congress and the direction of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am leaving from here to go join the thousands of students who have descended upon the Capitol today, whose leadership will help guide the direction of this country, and who understand that 1 month after the horrific shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School—1 month in—and this Congress has failed to act.

There are thousands out there today. There will be hundreds of thousands and millions more in the weeks ahead.

The community that I represent, Mr. Speaker, will not be defined in the future by the tragedy that happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. It will be defined by the leadership of the student survivors who are inspiring a nation and helping to take us to a place where children can feel safe going to school in the morning and parents can know that when they take their kids to school in the morning, they will be able to pick them up safely at the end of the day.

That is the result of this tragedy. That is what this is going to mean for

our country. We are going to follow the lead of these student leaders. They are an inspiration to us. They are an inspiration to all of us, and I am off to join them now.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Rodney David Cannon, Frostproof Church of God, Frostproof, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Creator God in Heaven, we thank You for this great Nation and for placing us in it for such a time as this. We humbly ask for Your wisdom and guidance in leading as we lay down our titles and take up the servant leader's towel. May we honor You by serving those across the aisle, across the street, and those around the world.

Protect those who are protecting us.

In the name of Your Son, Jesus, who taught us to pray by saying:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR RODNEY DAVID CANNON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Rodney David Cannon as our congressional guest chaplain today, not only one of our prominent pastors in the district, but also our mayor in Frostproof, Florida.

Born in Kansas, raised in Fort Meade, and having lived all over Polk County, Rodney settled down in his new hometown of Frostproof, where he lives with his wife, Lindsey, and their children.

As a child, Rodney lived in Highland City, Bartow, and eventually Fort Meade, where he graduated high school in 1995. After graduation, Rodney accepted a music scholarship and began his higher education journey. First he attended Brevard Community College, then transferred to Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee.

Throughout their 15-year marriage, Rodney and Lindsey have lived in various places. Rodney served as a youth pastor in Fort Meade, Winter Haven, Lakeland, Tampa, and Englewood before planting a church in the Daytona area. After 2 years there, the opportunity came for Rodney to become a senior pastor in Frostproof.

It was also in 2015 that Rodney decided to run for city council. He won the seat that year by only 20 votes. In his first city council meeting, he was elected by his peers to serve as vice mayor. During that first year on the council, Rodney was able to save the city residents and businesses hundreds of thousands of dollars by working hard to keep the volunteer fire department open.

In 2016, he was elected to serve as mayor after only 1 year on the council, and the next year, reelected to serve another 1-year term as mayor.

Thank you, Pastor Cannon, for all you do for the Frostproof community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLORES). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING ATHLETIC TRAINERS

(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, March is National Athletic Training Month, and I rise today to honor these healthcare professionals who provide care for athletes and patients, soldiers, workers, and performers.

Athletic trainers are committed to providing compassionate care for all in work, life, and sport. Anyone who has been sidelined with an injury can tell you how important their athletic trainer has been in helping them make a full recovery.

Athletic trainers provide medical services to all types of patients, not

just athletes participating in sports, and can work in a variety of job settings. They are instrumental in relieving widespread and future workforce shortages in primary care support and outpatient rehab professions, and they provide an unparalleled range of care for the patients. They also improve functional outcomes and specialize in patient education to prevent injury or reinjury.

As a former athlete, therapist, and rehabilitation services manager, I know just how valuable our athletic trainers are, and I thank them for the work they do to care for so many patients in various industries.

SCHOOL SHOOTING BILL

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 month since the tragic shooting in Parkland, and today students in Hawaii and all across the country are joining hands and raising their voices to honor the 17 lives lost on that day and the 7,000 children whose lives have been lost since the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook. They are walking out today to demand action that will help to prevent these horrific tragedies and improve the safety and security of our schools.

Later today, we are going to be voting on a bill that I have cosponsored, the STOP School Violence Act. This bill or any other single bill is not going to solve everything, but it will help prevent school violence by implementing measures developed after Sandy Hook that support training for teachers, students, school personnel, and local law enforcement to better identify early warning signs of violence and increase coordination between schools and local law enforcement.

In addition, we also need to take action on things like closing the gun show and online loopholes and requiring universal background checks for anyone seeking to purchase a gun. These are provisions that have overwhelming bipartisan support both here in Congress and across the country.

The time for action is long overdue. Let's bring these bills to the floor for a vote.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, IS THE NUMBER ONE PLACE TO LIVE IN AMERICA

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize a city in Texas' 25th Congressional District for being named the number one place to live in all of America. That city would be none other than our great State's capital, Austin, Texas.

Cities from all over the Nation are scored based on their job market, their value, quality of life, desirability, and net migration. With a population of al-

most 2 million people and an additional 50 new residents every single day, Austin is one of the fastest growing cities. It is no wonder Austin secured the number one spot.

In addition to its unleashed economic potential, young families are relocating to central Texas for something they can't get anywhere else: the ability to experience living in a big city with a booming economy that also provides the warmth and friendliness of a small town is what makes Austin one of a kind.

Mom-and-pop shops down the road are able to open their doors, hire more Texans, and pay their employees more due to an overhaul of our Nation's Tax Code. The truth is Austin is just now seeing the fruits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and I am excited to watch Austin continue to thrive because of it.

Texas is the greatest State in America, and Austin is its leadoff hitter.

May God bless Texas. May God bless this great Nation.

IN APPRECIATION OF TERRY MICHALSKE, DIRECTOR OF THE SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LABORATORY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I greatly appreciate Dr. Terry Michalske, who is the Executive Vice President and Director of the Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory, located at the Savannah River site in South Carolina's Second Congressional District.

Today is Dr. Michalske's last day as director. I am grateful to thank him for his leadership of this critical national laboratory.

The Savannah River National Laboratory conducts research and development, focusing on legacy waste clean-up, national security, and clean energy. Dr. Michalske has more than 30 years of experience in these fields. He holds seven patents, has authored 90 journal publications, and also collaborated on several books.

Dr. Michalske also coordinates with the Department of Energy to support the Savannah River site as a leading national laboratory and regional producer of jobs.

Also, congratulations to Dr. Vahid Majidi, who will succeed Dr. Michalske.

As a former staff member at the site myself, I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the Savannah River site in Congress.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Secretary Rex Tillerson for his service, and best wishes for continued success for Secretary of State designate Mike Pompeo.