

and well-being and have indicated that policymakers should act immediately to protect them in school and beyond;

WHEREAS, the leaders of the nation's major city public school systems respect the concerns of their students, and support the growing civic and social participation of high school students that was inspired by recent events;

WHEREAS, since the school shooting in Columbine in 1999, there have been numerous other school shootings, including those in Red Lake (MN), Lancaster (PA), Blacksburg (VA), Chardon (OH), Cleveland (OH), Sandy Hook (CT), Broward County (FL), and many others that have taken scores of young lives;

WHEREAS, too many of our young people are shot and killed on the streets of our major cities almost every day;

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with a gun than people in other developed countries;

WHEREAS, Americans make up about 4.4 percent of the world's population but own some 42 percent of the world's guns;

WHEREAS, assault weapons have no place in society and other types of guns are too easily obtained;

WHEREAS, teachers are not trained law enforcement officers, and should not be asked or incentivized to keep weapons accessible in their classrooms;

WHEREAS, there is no reason based on any viable research to suggest that adding guns into a school setting or arming teachers would prevent these acts of violence;

WHEREAS, schools across the country need considerable additional resources to plan for the possibility of such acts of violence, coordinate with law enforcement, and secure their buildings from intruders;

WHEREAS, many schools lack the mental health counselors, psychologists, and social workers they need to identify and work with students showing warning signs for depression and violence;

WHEREAS, the nation's data collection on gun violence and gun ownership is inadequate to monitor, understand, or prevent these events from happening; and

WHEREAS, the multiple school shootings that the nation has witnessed over the years have complex causes requiring multiple solutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools, its member districts, and staff stand with the students of Broward County Public Schools and the nation in demanding effective and comprehensive action from the federal government to protect schoolchildren;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to ban the sale, purchase, possession, and use of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition cartridges, except those needed by the military and law enforcement;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to require and strengthen universal background checks to possess any type of firearm;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the President of the United States to charge all agencies of the federal government with the task of reducing the number of gun-related injuries and deaths in America.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools is opposed to the arming of teachers to protect schools and children;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to extend the perimeter of Gun-Free School Zones;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds to allow school districts across the nation to plan and coordinate school security efforts with law enforcement officials and make other building alterations that may be necessary to protect students, teachers, and staff;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds to increase the numbers of counselors, mental health staff, psychologists, and social workers in our schools;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds for programs to educate students and their families on the dangers of firearms; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to require that states and the federal government collect whatever data necessary to track, monitor, understand, and prevent the extent of gun violence in America.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we find that areas that have acted, in the aftermath of gun violence, to increase protections for gun safety actually makes a difference. It is a lie that gun safety provisions make no difference; that, somehow, people who are intent on slaughter will not behave according to the law, they won't obey it; it will have no impact.

The evidence is that where actions are taken to reduce gun violence, to increase protections, to take guns away from people who shouldn't have them, gun violence is reduced.

In the aftermath of Sandy Hook, when this Congress was paralyzed, refused to allow a bipartisan legislation that would have increased universal background checks, for instance, the State of Connecticut acted. And over the years, they have enacted a series of provisions on gun safety that have resulted in reduced gun violence.

Indeed, the States with the fewest gun safety protections, some no protections at all, have the highest rates of gun violence.

□ 1215

We don't have to fall victim to that type of thinking.

The Council of the Great City Schools pointed out in their resolution that Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with a gun than people in other developed countries. They reject the proposition that we have to be the only developed country that cannot protect our families from gun violence.

They recognize that there is no place to arm teachers in response. There is no evidence that having teachers packing heat would make any difference at all. What it would do is add another layer of uncertainty, and more guns in schools increases the likelihood that they will be used.

They categorically reject the arming of teachers, but say move forward, remove the ability of people to purchase high-capacity automatic weapons,

tighten background checks, and make it easier to do research on gun violence—which this Congress has tried to make illegal.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that we will not have the Republican leadership continue to deny us an opportunity to fully debate the proposals that are circulating on a bipartisan basis that would make a difference dealing with background checks, dealing with taking guns away from people who shouldn't have them; making sure that we are reducing the access to some of the most destructive military weapons that have no place circulating in society, that children not old enough, young men not old enough to buy a beer can buy an AK-47. That is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that people's hearts and minds will be touched by the eloquence that we have heard from these young people in Florida who have endured it, who have put pressure on the Florida Legislature to act. I hope we can do the same.

RETURNING LAND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Guam Land Return Act of 2018. For decades, the people of Guam have worked to see their ancestral lands returned.

In Congress, I have made returning land from the Federal Government to our territorial government of Guam and Guam families a top priority. Since 2003, I have secured return of more than 1,000 acres from the Federal Government to the people of Guam.

My Guam Land Return Act of 2018 would reduce Federal landownership on Guam and return those lands to GovGuam and, ultimately, our people. This important legislation builds upon the work of my predecessors, former Congressman Robert A. Underwood, in particular.

The Guam Land Return Act would authorize the General Services Administration to transfer Federal land, buildings, vehicles, and other heavy equipment designated as surplus to GovGuam at no cost to the taxpayers. This would provide another avenue for the Federal Government to compensate GovGuam for expenses that our territorial government is required to bear in serving migrants under the Compact of Free Association, known as Compact Impact. It would also ask Federal agencies to return more Federal land to GovGuam more quickly.

The Federal Government must finally live up to its commitment to Guam and other affected U.S. jurisdictions with Compact migrant residents. I continue working to secure full Federal reimbursements for GovGuam's costs in providing local services to Compact migrants.

Indeed, I have sponsored the Compact Impact Relief Act, H.R. 4761, this year.

I have also championed legislation to reimburse GovGuam for Compact Impact at the mandatory \$180 million annual level recommended by the Government Accountability Office.

Transfers of valuable surplus Federal property under my Guam Land Return Act provide yet another way to increase Federal reimbursement to GovGuam for Compact Impact expenses, and these transfers of surplus property would occur at no cost to the Federal Government or the taxpayers.

Our island of Guam hosts a substantial U.S. military presence and is a strategic forward-facing domestic military base in the important Asia-Pacific region. In January of 2011, the U.S. military made a commitment to the people of Guam to reduce Federal land-ownership and the military's footprint on Guam. Importantly, the commitment coincides with the buildup of American military personnel and base resources on Guam, part of the relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan.

U.S. military and Defense Department leadership under the Trump administration have reaffirmed this net-negative commitment to our people and to me, personally. Since January of 2011, the Defense Department has returned approximately 686 acres to GovGuam.

My Guam Land Return Act holds the Defense Department accountable for meeting the net-negative commitment in full. This legislation would require the Secretary of Defense to maintain a public inventory of all land parcels the Defense Department expects to ultimately transfer to GovGuam under the net-negative commitment.

My legislation outlines 17 specific Federal land parcels, totalling 476 acres that should be transferred to GovGuam. The Guam Land Reform Act would also provide a public mechanism for the Governor of Guam to petition the Defense Department to consider transferring additional land parcels to GovGuam under the net-negative commitment.

Lastly, my legislation includes several provisions relating to current and former Federal land on Guam. Two provisions ensure that no-cost transfers of surplus Federal land and other valuable property do not create additional liabilities or public safety concerns for the Federal Government relating to environmental cleanup or flight paths for air traffic control. One section removes an antiquated Federal restriction on 927 acres on Guam's Cabras Island, which GovGuam has owned since 1981.

The people of Guam are patriotic Americans and support our military servicemembers and their families and the Nation's veterans, and at the same time, the people of Guam want to see their ancestral lands returned, and rightfully so.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RICE of South Carolina) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You are the source of all life and unconditional love. The House of Representatives is a noble institution which embraces the highest aspirations of the Nation's people and embodies their lasting values.

Help the Members of this House to look at themselves, their politics, priorities, and the Nation's interests with new vision in the light of Your Spirit. Help them to be wise and patient legislators, seeking not immediate political wins, but a productive future which will nourish the stability of our homeland and reap a harvest of peace in the world.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNN 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT CARL ENIS

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a life that was lost too soon. Staff Sergeant Carl Enis from Tallahassee was tragically killed in the Black Hawk helicopter crash that claimed the lives of seven members of the United States Air Force in western Iraq last week.

Sergeant Enis graduated from Florida State University, and went on to

get his MBA in 2017. He chose to selflessly serve our country and he joined the Air Force after college, serving as a pararescueman, where he performed combat rescue missions as a member of the elite 308th Rescue Squadron.

Sergeant Enis loved the outdoors, and he even had a blog about hunting, fishing, and hiking. He was loved and respected by all who met him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Staff Sergeant Carl Enis and all of our fallen heroes who gave their last full measure of devotion to this country to make Americans safe at home and abroad.

CELEBRATING MS. BETTYE JEAN WILSON FRANKLIN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Ms. Bettye Jean Wilson Franklin's 90th birthday.

Ms. Franklin was born March 18, 1928. She is a native of Fort Worth. Ms. Franklin attended and graduated from the historical I.M. Terrell High School. Her passion for education inspired her to work for the Fort Worth Independent School District for 27 years until she retired in 1980.

But it is her everlasting commitment to her faith that is well-known among her friends and family. Ms. Franklin has been a faithful member of the Saint James Baptist Church for the last 77 years, where she contributed in various capacities, including her participation in the senior choir for 52 years.

In addition, she serves her community as a member of the Greater Fort Worth Area Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Fort Worth Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Ms. Franklin is also a member of the Eastern Star Southern Beauty Chapter 446, and served as Grand Secretary of the Masonic Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Texas for 13 years.

She is the proud mother of two daughters, a grandmother of four grandchildren, and the great-grandmother to her seven great-grandchildren.

Happy 90th birthday, Ms. Franklin. I wish you continued health and happiness on this milestone occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOREST HILLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the state champion Forest Hills High School basketball team that won the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 2-A Championship on March 10.