

Western democracies, Portugal, along with the United States, helped organize Western Europe to create NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, that has been the bulwark of defense of Western ideals that are the foundation of our democracies.

For these reasons and more, I call upon my colleagues to join me in supporting a commonsense, bipartisan piece of legislation, the AMIGOS Act, which will further opportunities for business in America by creating more jobs and continue to enhance the relationship that has existed for over 200 years between the United States and Portugal.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the irreplaceable contributions that women have made to our Nation. As pioneers of industry and champions of human rights, women have played a critical role in the advancement of our society.

March is Women's History Month, so I want to take a moment to talk about just three of the many women from my community who have made the world a better place.

One of those women is Lydia Hamilton Smith from Lancaster County, an African-American woman, who became the partner and confidant of Pennsylvania Congressman Thaddeus Stevens during the Civil War and during the ensuing debate and passage of the 13th Amendment.

During the Battle of Gettysburg, Ms. Hamilton Smith hired a horse and wagon and went out to collect food and supplies from York, Adams, and Lancaster Counties. Once her wagon was full, she traveled to the makeshift hospitals tending to wounded soldiers from the battle.

The recent excavation of Lydia Hamilton Smith's and Thaddeus Stevens' houses in Lancaster uncovered a passageway that led to a tavern that is believed to have been used to shelter escaped slaves. The work Lydia contributed to the Underground Railroad and the abolition movement at large is reflective of the difficult, perilous, and humble work by women during that time period to end slavery.

The next woman I would like to recognize today is Rebecca Lukens of Chester County. I would like to read an excerpt from a May 2012 piece published in the Daily Local News:

"Imagine the year is 1825. You are a 31-year-old mother, pregnant with your sixth child. You've already lost two children in infancy. Your husband has struggled for a dozen years to build an iron-making business in the rolling backcountry of Chester County on the banks of Brandywine Creek. Suddenly he dies, leaving you alone. The ironworks employees are ready to leave,

and your overbearing mother implores you to abandon the business."

This is what Rebecca Lukens had to confront, but she didn't give up. Rebecca ran the household and the business, building it over the next few decades into a successful company that we know today as ArcelorMittal, the world's leading steel and mining company.

Women like Rebecca teach our sons and daughters that, if you work hard and dream big enough, you can break molds and you can achieve your goals.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Barbara Franklin. Born in Lancaster County and a graduate of Hempfield High School, she is perhaps best known for serving in President George H.W. Bush's Cabinet as the 29th Secretary of Commerce.

Following the student protests and massacre in Tiananmen Square in China, the United States imposed sanctions and a ban on governmental contacts. When President Bush sought to normalize relations with China, Barbara led that effort. She reconvened the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, opening new markets for American products. She says this is the most important thing that she did as Commerce Secretary.

Barbara was also one of the very first women to graduate from Harvard Business School. As the current president and CEO of Barbara Franklin Enterprises, she has a reputation for breaking down barriers and being a leading voice for women's equality and empowerment in the workplace.

Each of the three women I have highlighted today are successful in their own right. They have paved the way for current and future generations of young people who have the same entrepreneurial drive. Their leadership has inspired men and women, alike, and has set an example of what hard work, determination, and standing for what you believe in looks like.

I have to say I am quite proud to have such impressive role models come from my congressional district. It is women like Lydia, Rebecca, Barbara, and many others who are shining examples of the progress our country has made over the last two centuries, who give hope for the future and remind us of the important contributions of women.

□ 1030

A CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened and angered that the high school in my district, Great Mills High School, in St. Mary's County, was the site of the most recent school shooting, of which there have been 17 just since the beginning of this year.

Two students were injured, and the gunman, also a student, was killed.

And an entire community of parents, students, teachers, and faculty has been shaken by this violence.

If it had not been for the courage and quick action of the school resource officer, Blaine Gaskill, and local law enforcement, the casualties might have been far, far greater.

Blaine Gaskill is a hero, as are the teachers, students, and other school personnel.

Tim Cameron, the sheriff of St. Mary's County, and the sheriff's office, of which Blaine Gaskill was a member, responded exactly as they had practiced: efficient, effective, and caring.

Kathy O'Brien, who heads up a place called Walden in our county and in southern Maryland, was on site within an hour, dealing with the crisis and the mental health challenges it caused.

Principal Jake Heibel made sure the school responded effectively. The superintendent of schools, Dr. James Smith, had made sure that the school would act in a way that was appropriate.

We thank all of them.

But, Mr. Speaker, our Nation is suffering from a crisis of gun violence. It has affected schools, places of worship, entertainment venues, city streets, and other places where a lot of people congregate.

No other industrialized society or nation faces such a crisis, and that is because, in America, our laws allow almost anybody to access dangerous firearms, almost no questions asked.

Furthermore, we allow the sale of assault rifles of the kind used by soldiers in the battlefield, designed to kill a lot of people quickly.

In this instance, it was a handgun, a Glock. I do not know the capacity of the magazine that was used, but it was not an assault rifle.

This Republican-led Congress, Mr. Speaker, has chosen to follow the lead of the NRA and do nothing of substance.

We did pass a bill the other day that gave schools some help, some grant money, to ensure the safety of their schools. That was appropriate to do. But they could do that now on their own. We will help, that is good, but it does not address the real problem. Perhaps that was the point.

And America's students, however, Mr. Speaker, won't have it. I had the opportunity last Wednesday to stand with thousands of students who walked out of their schools, walked into democracy, and marched to the Capitol to call for action against gun violence.

These young people, Mr. Speaker, displayed the best of America, using their voices and their actions, to promote a just cause and a worthy effort to make our Union more perfect.

The other Members and I who joined these young Americans could see that they do not take this and other national challenges lightly. Indeed, they had much to say about the future they want for our country and for the role they want to play to shape it.

One of the students, Mr. Speaker, from Maryland, Matt Post, spoke extraordinarily eloquently.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD his remarks.

My name is Matt Post. I'm a twelfth-grader, the Student Member of the Board for Montgomery County, and, I think, as students we need to make a few things clear.

To start, we will not sit in classrooms with armed teachers. We refuse to learn in fear. We reject turning our schools into prisons.

We will accept nothing less than stricter gun control. If it's what it takes, we are going to shame our national policymakers into protecting us, not just in schools but in churches, movie theaters, on the streets, and for the communities of color who are disproportionately devastated by the sickness of gun violence.

The lawmakers who fail to support us, those who look for every answer to our nation's gun problem but the guns themselves, are complicit in every single death that comes after. To every politician sitting in the Capitol behind us, you get to decide who lives.

And so, this is not a partisan issue for us. There's nothing cosmetic about life or death. This is about our basic morality as a country.

When the commander-in-chief's solution to this gun epidemic is more guns, you know we have a moral problem in the White House.

When national policymakers value the blood money of the NRA over the lives of children, you know we have a moral problem in the Halls in Congress.

And when this is doomed to happen again—when, in the coming weeks and months, more of my peers will be slaughtered in their own classrooms, when their deaths will be dismissed as collateral—you know we have a moral problem in this country.

So let's make one last thing clear: their right to own an assault rifle does not outweigh our right to live.

The adults have failed us. This is in our hands now. And if any elected official gets in our way, we will vote them out and replace them ourselves.

'Enough is Enough!'

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to read the remarks in their entirety, but I do want to highlight one thing Matt had to say, which I thought was so profound.

He concluded his remarks by saying: "... their right to own an assault rifle does not outweigh our right to live."

His right to live is guaranteed by the Constitution as well.

There were many others like Matt, Mr. Speaker, other student leaders from our area, who stood up and spoke out and roused their peers to be engaged.

Along with Matt, I want to recognize Brenna Levitan; Eri Shay; Emily Dohler Rodas; Michael Solomon; Nate Tinbite; Christian Crawford; and a student from American University, who helped them organize, Aaron Thorp.

These student leaders, and their many peers who marched with them last week, deserve to be heard in the Halls of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we must not fail them.

Like the young leaders of generations ago, of centuries ago, a millennia

ago, these young leaders are calling to our conscience to take action, and we must not fail them.

We must not fail the students and teachers and parents of Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County; or Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; or Marshall County High School in Kentucky; or Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon; or Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut; or Virginia Tech; or Columbine; or any other school that has witnessed the carnage of a school shooting.

Mr. Speaker, we must take real action—action to make our schools and our communities safer from gun violence.

I am proud to stand with the young Americans who walked out—and I thank them for their passion and their advocacy—and who say they do not want to go to school and be afraid.

One young woman said the first thing she does when she goes to school now is to look for a place to hide.

Mr. Speaker, we must do better than that. I will continue to work closely with the community in Great Mills in the days and weeks ahead, as we try to heal and move forward.

But, Mr. Speaker, in order to do that, this body, the people's body, who raise our hand and swear an oath to the Constitution and the laws of our country, designed to create a more perfect Union, a Union in which the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is protected by the people's House, Mr. Speaker, let us act.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

Minister Jeremiah Tatum, Willow Avenue Church of Christ, Cookeville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Father in Heaven, we bow to You and praise You upon this, the beginning of spring. We are reminded that You are in control of all things, and it is by Your hand that they exist and were created.

Look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States. Be

Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. Direct them according to the instructions of Your holy word.

We humbly ask for Your care and patience. We request the revival of the spirit by which we were founded and have endured. We pray for Your guidance upon our President, his Cabinet, the Members of our Congress, and each and every person within our government. We pray for Your truth and love and peace to reign in our country and in our world.

In Jesus' name, 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.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. TROTT 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 MINISTER JEREMIAH TATUM

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to welcome Minister Jeremiah Tatum from Cookeville, Tennessee, to our Nation's Capital.

In Congress, we begin each day thanking the Lord for His provision