

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
SENATOR HARRIS WOFFORD

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Senator Harris Wofford, a giant in our Nation's history and a dear friend.

For decades, at every single inflection point in our Nation's march towards equality, Senator Wofford stood proudly and strongly on the side of justice and decency. But he wasn't one who could be confined only to our shores. Before, during, and after his time in the United States Senate, Harris sought out injustice around the world and asked how he could help.

Not only is he an inspiration to any aspiring public servant, he has been a close friend to generations of my own family. To his husband, Mr. Charlton, his children, Susanne, Daniel, and David, and all of the members of his family and friends who loved him so dearly, know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and that Harris' memory and our Nation will never forget.

## REMEMBERING TOMMY RUKAVINA

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of a dear friend, Tommy Rukavina, who passed away after his battle with cancer. Tommy's life ended the way he lived, with a fight. He wouldn't have had it any other way.

It is hard not to think of Tommy when I travel northern Minnesota and see all the great communities that rely on the mining industry and when I am with the amazing men and women who sustain Minnesota's Iron Range today. These are the people Tommy cared about. These are the people he represented and the people he helped.

Tommy Rukavina was outspoken. He never shied away from a fight, and yet, win or lose, he preserved civil discourse in every interaction. After difficult battles, you would still want to hang out with Tommy.

The Croatian Sensation, as I once called him, was passionate about life. He was passionate about people, and he was passionate about the causes he believed in and fought for every day. I have no doubt that he has a special place in Heaven, and I know Heaven will never be the same now that he is there.

Our State has suffered a great loss. Tommy will be deeply missed.

Our condolences to his family and loved ones, and a special thanks to all of you for sharing Tommy Rukavina with the rest of us.

□ 1215

ELIMINATE SHUTDOWN TACTIC  
FOREVER

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before you as a Member of the most diverse freshman class in our Nation's history, sent to Washington to inspire collaboration and rebuild the American people's faith in their elected leaders. But much of our tenure in Congress has been spent under a shutdown, proving the American people were right to demand change.

This dynamic must stop. To that end, Representatives HOULAHAN, SLOTKIN, ALLRED, and I rallied an energetic group of 22 freshman Members, nearly one-third of the entire class, behind the Shutdown to End All Shutdowns Act, known as the SEAS Act.

As we near agreement and the fear and immediacy of a shutdown fades, I will not forget the conversations I had with Federal employees, parents, and business owners in my district—the real human stories of the shutdown.

It would be irresponsible and unforgivable for us to betray them once again. They are not political pawns, and many provide the very safety and security we cherish in this country. That is why I stand here to urge the passing of the SEAS Act, to eliminate this destructive tactic from the negotiation toolbox forever.

## RECOGNIZING CHAYNE DESSASO

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, duty, honor, country—these three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, and what you will be. These words were Douglas MacArthur's in a speech to West Point's Corps of Cadets in 1962.

Memorizing it will be one of the many challenges faced by a young man from my district, Chayne Dessaso of Leavenworth, Kansas. You see, Chayne has recently been appointed to be a cadet of the United States Military Academy at West Point, my alma mater.

West Point will teach Chayne rifle marksmanship, military tactics, math, chemistry, a foreign language, boxing, engineering, swimming, gymnastics, orienteering, history, poetry, first aid, and philosophy. He will also learn about camaraderie, sacrifice, leadership, and the human spirit. And the world will be a better place for it.

Well done, Chayne. Welcome to The Long Gray Line.

## USS "MICHAEL MONSOOR"

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero whose motto should inspire us all: You Never Quit.

Michael Monsoor wrote those words with a permanent marker inside the hat he wore during his BUDS training in Coronado. The lettering has faded but, displayed throughout the newly commissioned USS *Michael Monsoor*, the hat and its message will continue to inspire sailors for years to come.

In 2001, Michael enlisted in the Navy and set out to become a Navy SEAL. An injury derailed his first attempt, but Michael never quit. He returned, completed basic SEAL training, and was assigned to SEAL Team Three.

While deployed in Iraq, Michael ran forward, not away, from incoming gunfire to protect his teammates; and, when the time came, Michael threw himself upon an enemy grenade to save his team because Michael never quit.

For his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Medal of Honor. His legacy perseveres in the proud vessel stationed in San Diego.

Fair winds and following seas to the sailors who will call the USS *Michael Monsoor* their home, and may we all never quit.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT  
MARTIN

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, at the age of 93, on February 5, America lost another hero from our Greatest Generation. I rise today to honor the life of Robert Martin of Spring Hill, Arkansas, for his heroic actions in World War II and his life of service.

Mr. Martin enrolled in the Army on June 6, 1944, a day we know as D-day. We think of it as the beginning of the end of the war; although, it was just the beginning of his service. But he had a lot of service to give.

During his time overseas in the war, he served in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. Mr. Martin fought in the Battle of the Bulge, was wounded in December of 1944 and January and February of 1945, and spent several months in the hospital recovering from serious injuries.

Upon his return to the U.S., he was awarded three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Prisoner of War Medal, a World War II Victory Medal, and several others.

Mr. Martin was a proud resident of Arkansas and became known as the community historian to everyone who lived in Spring Hill, sharing his stories with anyone who would listen.

Mr. Martin was a true American hero. He spent his life serving his fellow man, and, for this, we remember his legacy.

It is with great pride that I honor Mr. Robert Martin.

## REMEMBERING LIVES LOST AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS 1 YEAR AGO

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

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, today is a very difficult day for south Florida and for my community. One year ago, we lost 17 innocent lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland.

The pain of the family and friends of those we lost does not go away. I know. I lost my father to gun violence.

Shortly after the tragedy at Parkland, I met with the parents of the students who lost their lives. All you want to do is find a way to take away their pain, but you can't. You can listen to them, share their story, hold their hand, but you can't take away their pain.

When I spoke with parents like Regina Talabert, Romania Duque, Manny, Patricia, and other concerned Floridians, I made a promise that I would not stop until we changed our country's gun laws.

I want to be able to continue to look at those parents, those students, and all of those who have lost a loved one to gun violence and tell them that I will do everything that I can to prevent another tragedy from happening.

We cannot wait for another mass shooting, so I want to say that I am so proud of my colleagues that we passed H.R. 8 yesterday on the floor. We can work together to prevent another Parkland.

## PROTECTING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for those who can't speak for themselves: the souls of our Nation's unborn and newborn children.

I have long championed pro-life legislation and initiatives, but recent events have shaken me and millions across our country, compelling me to address this body.

The act of abortion is tragic and heartbreaking; however, the termination of human life for abortion survivors is something worse—criminal, subhuman. But proposals exist in our State governments that would allow just that.

Allowing an infant to die or intentionally killing an abortion survivor is a disgrace and must not be allowed to happen in any circumstance.

I echo the calls from Republican leadership to immediately pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to ensure the sanctity of life remains a fundamental principle in this country.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SHANNON KENT

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent, a true hero from Pine Plains, New York, who tragically lost her life in service to this country on January 16, 2019, in Syria.

Chief Kent was 35 years old and is survived by her husband, a retired member of the Army, and her two young sons.

After graduating with honors from Stissing Mountain High School on December 11, 2003, Chief Kent enlisted in the United States Navy, where she quickly rose through the ranks and served as a member of the Navy's Cryptologic Warfare Unit.

Chief Kent was fluent in five different languages and six dialects of Arabic and was one of the first women to complete the rigorous course required for troops to accompany Navy SEALs on raids.

Chief Kent could run a marathon in 3 hours 30 minutes, do a dozen full-arm-hang pull-ups, and then march for miles with a 50-pound rucksack—amazing.

A cancer survivor, Chief Kent had assignments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and, finally, Syria. Just 1 month into her deployment, Chief Kent was killed by a suicide bomber.

A recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, Chief Kent gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country and will be remembered for her courage and determination.

## RECOGNIZING THE IRREPLACEABLE WORK OF OUR COURT REPORTERS DURING NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important and irreplaceable work done by our court reporters during National Court Reporting and Captioning Week, which is February 9 through 16.

As guardians of the record, court reporters have had and do have a large impact on capturing history for posterity.

During our nearly 250 years of American history, court reporters have been a cornerstone of our American justice system. From George Washington's farewell address to Lincoln's "House Divided" speech, these noble servants have transcribed some of the most important pieces of American history.

Today, with the help of new technology like that utilized by CART captioners, reporters have been able to expand beyond the courtroom to provide accessibility for millions of Amer-

icans who are deaf and hard of hearing by providing captioning in real time for live sporting and theater events, church services, movie theaters, and many other venues.

As I speak to you now, a stenographer, Julia, is seated next to me, quietly but promptly recording my every word.

So, on behalf of myself and all Members of Congress, thank you for all the hard work you do in support of this House.

## WE MUST ACT ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8.

I serve on the House Judiciary Committee. Last night, after 10 hours of debate, our committee passed this bill to be brought to the floor, and it is vital that we pass it.

In Colorado and across our country, we have experienced undue devastation by countless tragedies of gun violence—Columbine, Aurora.

Mothers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives, and young children have been lost at the hands of gun violence.

One year ago today, 17 lives were taken in 6 minutes and 20 seconds in Parkland, Florida.

There is no question we need to address the epidemic of gun violence in our country. We cannot sit idly by. Universal background checks are overwhelmingly supported by the American people, and 20 States, including my home State of Colorado, have either wholly or partially closed the background check loophole.

Americans understand what it takes to keep our communities safe from gun violence, and it is time for Congress to act as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say, simply: Enough is enough. We must act on gun violence. We must pass H.R. 8 here on the floor.

## PROTECT THE RIGHT TO LIFE

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

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I have been deeply disturbed by the news out of the New York and Virginia State Legislatures, where infanticide is being legalized.

Today I rise in strong support of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, a child born alive after a failed abortion is a living being just like any other baby born prematurely. Ending any life at 24 weeks or as a newborn is murder.

The law just adopted in New York legalizes abortion up to 40 weeks, essentially up to the moment of birth, and this is atrocious.

We are facing a moral crisis, and I fear for my children's future with today's officials supporting and signing bills into law like that of New York's.