

nations all have a national security interest in keeping Persian Gulf oil shipping lanes open and are justified in using military force to defend those shipping lanes at their own risk and at their own cost.

Similarly, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates all have a national security interest in keeping Persian Gulf oil shipping lanes open to transport the oil they produce and sell. Hence, each of these countries is justified in using military force to defend their shipping lanes at their own risk and at their own cost.

Clearly, then, other nations have a far greater national security interest in Persian Gulf oil and shipping lanes than does the United States. As such, these nations should be primarily responsible for using military force as is necessary to protect their national security interests.

Madam Speaker, America must stop being the world's policeman on every corner of the planet. America must stop burning through our treasury and risking our American lives when we have no compelling security interest in a dispute. This is particularly true when those nations that do have a national security interest don't care enough about their own national security interest to protect them.

While America can and should help our allies, it is equally important that America's allies put up their own defense capabilities, protect their own national security interests, and shoulder their own share of military burdens.

If countries with a national security interest in Persian Gulf shipping lanes act as a unified force to protect them, and if they ask for America's assistance, America should then, and only then, consider military assistance. Unless that happens, this is not America's fight.

Of course, should Iran attack Americans or their property, or should Iran attack and kill any of our allies' citizens, an entirely different set of considerations come into play, and Iran will not like America's response to those kinds of attacks.

#### COMMEMORATING OKLAHOMANS IN SPACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEE of California). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about Oklahomans in space.

Born in Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District in Shawnee, retired Air Force Colonel Gordon Cooper was one of the first Mercury astronauts. In 1962, he served as a backup for the *Sigma 7* mission. A year later, he circled Earth 22 times in the space capsule *Faith 7*, completing the sixth and last of the Mercury manned spaceflights.

He also served as a command pilot of *Gemini 5* on an 8-day endurance mis-

sion. This not only made him the first person to make two orbital flights, but he also set an endurance record on this mission of nearly 191 hours.

Before becoming an astronaut with NASA, Colonel Cooper earned a commission with the U.S. Army in the late 1940s and then transferred to the Air Force where he received a bachelor of science degree in aeronautics from the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

If you visit the National Portrait Gallery in D.C., you will see a picture of Colonel Cooper as one of NASA's Mercury Seven astronauts. I am proud to honor his memory, legacy, and history-making achievements in space.

Madam Speaker, women astronauts from Oklahoma have also made critical contributions to our Nation's space program. Jerrie Cobb and Shannon Lucid are two of those pioneers who paved the way in space and aeronautics.

Cobb is considered one of the most gifted female pilots in history and a fierce advocate for women astronauts. Born in Norman, Oklahoma, and a graduate from Oklahoma City's Classen High School, Cobb became the first woman to fly in the Paris Air Show and was among the first women certified to be an astronaut as a member of the little-known Mercury 13 in the early 1960s. She testified before Congress in 1962, urging lawmakers to allow women to go into space.

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Though she never got to leave the Earth's atmosphere, Cobb helped pave the way for future generations of women astronauts like fellow Oklahoman and astronaut, Dr. Shannon Lucid. I pause to honor the memory of Dr. Cobb today, as she passed away 3 months ago at the age of 88.

Lady astronaut Dr. Shannon Lucid, a Congressional District Five resident, graduated from Bethany High School. Among the first six women astronauts selected by NASA, Dr. Lucid became an astronaut in 1979. Not only did she fly on five spaceflights, she is also the only American woman to serve aboard the Mir Space Station.

Before Peggy Whitson broke the record of the number of hours in space, Dr. Lucid set the record with 5,354 hours in space. In December of 1996, she became the first woman to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for her record-breaking service aboard the Mir, and she retired from NASA in 2012.

Because of the glass ceiling shattered by Jerrie Cobb and Dr. Shannon Lucid, generations of women can and do now follow in their footsteps.

#### HONORING FRANK LAMERE

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank LaMere, who died last Sunday night.

A member of the Winnebago Tribe, Frank was proud of his heritage and worked tirelessly for the Native American community. Frank spent the majority of his life fighting for Native American causes and, as a result, was known across Nebraska and other States for his determined efforts.

I had the opportunity of interacting with Frank for several years and was always impressed by the civility he showed, his respect for others, and, most of all, how considerate and thoughtful he was.

Frank had an interest in politics and policy and sought to build relationships with folks on both sides of the aisle. He was devoted to making life better for others and was a role model in his civic engagement.

Frank will be dearly missed, but the people of South Sioux City, Nebraska, and the entire State will remember him for his loyalty, his passion, and his ability to build friendships along the way.

Madam Speaker, I offer my condolences to his family and community.

#### WAR POWERS RESIDE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Madam Speaker, because I love my country and because I have reason to be concerned, and I believe that every American has reason to be concerned about the issue that I shall address today.

Those of us who are in the House of Representatives should be especially concerned because the issue involves war and peace. It involves the sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. America—war and peace.

We have, by and through our Chief Executive Officer, the President of the United States of America, caused a *Nimitz*-class battle group to go into the Gulf region.

For those who do not know, this is the ultimate expression of American military prowess, a *Nimitz*-class battle group. Above it, we have the generationally reliable B-52 bomber. They can rain lethality on anything within their range. Beneath the battle group, you have, lurking, a submarine that can launch without surfacing.

But the centerpiece of a *Nimitz*-class battle group, especially this one, is the USS *Abraham Lincoln*. The *Abraham Lincoln* is an aircraft carrier that is 1,092 feet long. It can carry 90 fixed- and rotary-winged aircraft. The *Abraham Lincoln* has two A-4 Westinghouse nuclear reactors. When it is fueled and it is sent out on a mission, it does not have to come back for 25 years. It is the centerpiece of American military prowess.

To borrow a term from where I grew up, you don't send the *Abraham Lincoln* if you are shucking. You send it when

you are not bluffing. You don't send the *Abraham Lincoln*, Madam Speaker, unless you want to make a statement.

This is the ultimate in American military prowess. It has the ability to rain lethality unlike the human mind can imagine. This is the *Abraham Lincoln*, a *Nimitz*-class aircraft carrier, a part of a battle group. It is the equivalent of sending a military base. You don't send it to bluff.

This is why we must be concerned. We have to be concerned because, if you send it because you are bluffing, Madam Speaker, you are playing with American military prowess; and if you send it because you are going to use it, you have to come to Congress. Congress has to give the word.

We don't play with this kind of lethality. There is a reality associated with this lethality that we cannot imagine. We have no way of predicting what can happen if we use this ultimate form of military force.

We obviously have it to defend ourselves and defend our allies. I don't object to the defensive nature of military action, but I am concerned if you send in this level of lethality because you are bluffing.

So I am calling on all Americans to please pay attention to what is happening in the Gulf region, and I am saying to my brethren and my sisters here in Congress: We are going to regret it if this level of lethality is being used and we did not exercise our duty, our obligation, and our responsibility to review impeachment of this President. We are going to regret it if it happens.

This is the ultimate in lethality. You don't send it because you are bluffing. It is time for us to do what we should do here in this Congress: require an Authorization for Use of Military Force; make sure that we play our role in this process. This is the Congress. We declare war. Don't let all of our authority be usurped by the executive branch.

We ought to have some sense of duty to what the Constitution requires of us. We see what is coming, and we are going to regret it if this ultimate in lethality is utilized in this Gulf region for a bluff that, unfortunately, was called.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK LAMERE

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I rise today to honor the life of Frank LaMere. Frank LaMere was a leader for the Winnebago, who had land on both sides of the Missouri River in the Sioux City area, and also for Native Americans, especially in the upper Midwest.

Over the years, our lives interacted multiple times. I had the opportunity

to work with him and see the gentleness of his nature.

I will say that he mellowed out in his later years, but he never let up. He never took his foot off the throttle. He just found a smoother way to get to the goals, which were to help out his Native American people.

He was a model of dedication to selflessness, and he also had more than his fair share of tragedy, loss, and demons to fight.

Over the course of his life, he demonstrated that no matter the obstacles, he could rise above them, as we could rise above those and do the most good we can with the tools we have to work with.

He overcame addiction himself. He had dedicated his life to being a voice for the voiceless, including securing housing, food, and other necessities for the people whom he did such a good job representing in the area.

Yet, tragedy still exists in our communities, and Frank LaMere saw the need to address those situations. We collaborated on a couple of important things together. They were the passions of Frank LaMere who passed away on Sunday evening.

The imagination and the dream that he had was to build Hope Street, which would be a treatment center and housing center primarily for Native Americans who are drug addicted or alcohol addicted.

That project, by the way, has the language that allows it to qualify in this appropriations bill that we have before us this week.

Also, the second project that was a very, very important project was when Frank and I had a chance meeting in the airport in Omaha, and we began to discuss these things, too, that were on his mind, that brought about the bill that is now H.R. 184. That is the Winnebago Land Transfer Act.

In 1865, the United States Government and the Winnebago Tribe signed a treaty that granted that land on both sides of the Missouri River to the Winnebago Tribe. As the river changed and situations changed—actually, I shouldn't say both sides of the river. It was the Nebraska side of the river. When the river changed, that meant that a lot of that land actually ended up in Iowa.

The Corps of Engineers came in 105 years later and condemned that property for their own project. It was a takings, and I believe it was an unconstitutional takings. In doing so, they never compensated them for that land, and they didn't use that land for the project for which they had intended.

So, over time, the Winnebagoes were able to put the money together to go to court. The statute of limitations had expired. The court ruled that, if they were going to rule on the issue, they would grant the land back to the Winnebagoes, but it was beyond their jurisdiction because of the statute of limitations.

The only thing that puts that land back is an act of Congress, and that is

the Winnebago Land Transfer Act, H.R. 184. If we can conclude that this week or next week, it will be the time that we have finished the biggest part of the work of Frank LaMere. We should do so to honor his life.

One of the things that he was quoted as saying, and this was at the services for him: "If you haven't been marginalized at least once a week, then you probably haven't done very much."

I can identify with that, Madam Speaker, and I can identify with the life of selfless work of Frank LaMere.

We honor his life. Let's honor his life in this Congress this week or next.

#### STOPPING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today for Hadiya Pendleton, taken by gun violence on January 23, 2013. She was 15.

I rise for Terrell Bosley, taken by gun violence on April 4, 2006. He was 18 and unloading musical instruments from a car.

I rise for Blair Holt, taken by gun violence on May 7, 2007. He was 16 and died shielding others from bullets.

Today I rise for Gregory Shondale, killed yesterday. He was 41.

Madam Speaker, I rise for them and for all those taken from us by senseless gun violence that continues unchecked in our Nation because of inaction on the part of the Senate Majority Leader and the President.

I rise today more than 100 days after this House, the people's House, sent bipartisan universal background check legislation, H.R. 8, to the Senate, which has failed to consider any legislation for more than 8 weeks.

I rise today for the 100 Americans who will lose their lives to gun violence today and Americans who will be shot, survive, and face a lifetime of recovery. That will be 210 Americans.

I rise because someone must—someone must—stand up to speak for those who have had their voices silenced by gun violence. Someone must speak for the mom of five who suffered domestic violence, found the courage to leave her abusive relationship, and ended up dead because her abuser had easy access to a gun.

Someone must speak up for the little girl playing in the park who was gunned down because guns are more common than schools in her neighborhood.

Someone must speak for the veteran and the farmer who face what seem like insurmountable odds with no way out, who tragically end their own life.

Someone must speak for those killed at Pulse and at supermarkets because of who they are and whom they love.

Someone must speak for the person, often a young Black man, who will be gunned down by a cop who shot first and asked questions later.

Someone must speak for the first responders who are taking their own