

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 Winnebagos, 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 Winnebagos 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 Winnebagos, 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

lives at alarming rates. Someone must speak for them.

Someone must tell the story of everyday gun violence that plagues our communities from Chicago to Key West.

Too often, this House focuses on the mass shooting tragedies in this Nation that have become more and more common since our Republican colleagues allowed the assault weapons ban to expire in 2004. We hold moments of silence. My colleagues run to their tweets with their thoughts and prayers to justify their continued and negligent inaction. But we forget gun violence happens every day in every community.

We cannot forget about those who died alone from gun violence in city parks, in road rage incidents, and in their own homes, entrapped by depression and despair. They, too, deserve to be remembered. Their lives and stories should also challenge us to actions so we can say “not one more” and then actually do something to prevent another death, another funeral, and another life forever altered.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that this House finally acted. After the American people sent a historic wave of new Members to Congress, Members who understand that commonsense gun safety reform saves lives, we voted to enact bipartisan universal background check legislation that is supported by more than 90 percent of Americans and 70 percent of NRA members.

We also voted to close the Charleston loophole, a clear gap in our laws that allowed a known white supremacist to legally purchase a weapon and use it to steal the lives of nine people seeking to better know their God.

We know this is a problem. We passed legislation to close this loophole, and yet the Senate, controlled by Republicans, have still done nothing. My good colleagues in the Senate continue to do nothing while people die every day in every State and in every community. Still they do nothing. They refuse to act. Still they offer hollow thoughts and prayers while rushing to the bank with pockets full of NRA donations.

□ 0945

Perhaps that is the problem, Madam Speaker. Perhaps it is the money.

The American people should know that the President got \$30 million from the NRA in his 2016 campaign. What are they buying?

The American people deserve to know that the Senate majority leader has taken more than \$1 million from the NRA over his career. What were they investing in?

The American people deserve to know that too many in the GOP are bought and sold by the NRA or too often afraid of them to grow a spine and stand up for their constituents.

It is a sad fact that just 8—that is right, just 8—of 198 Members, or a mere 4 percent of the House Republican Con-

ference, had the courage to stand with gun violence victims and 90 percent of Americans. I thank those courageous eight Republicans for voting to save lives.

Madam Speaker, to my colleagues still too afraid or too owned by the NRA to act, I say good luck next year. They had their chance, and they failed miserably. They are on the wrong side of history.

Next year, the American people will not forget.

#### RECOGNIZING THOMAS J. HAAS

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of a friend, public servant, and caring educator: Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas.

As a retired U.S. Coast Guard captain who also holds a Ph.D., President Haas has devoted his life of service to our country and, most recently, to west Michigan and the students of Grand Valley State University.

Having been appointed the university's fourth president in 2006, he successfully laid a foundation for a culture that nurtures innovation and excellence. Under his leadership, enrollment has soared to over 25,000 students, while 46 undergraduate and graduate programs have also been added and the university expanded with 2.5 million square feet of new buildings.

“T. Haas,” as he is affectionately called by students, and his wife, Marcia, will forever be cherished and adored by the Grand Valley community. Together, they have passionately dedicated themselves to putting students first.

The now-famous selfie with T. Haas, as it is known, it is a clear example of the way they treated every student like their own.

President Haas is the epitome of the phrase “Laker for a Lifetime.” It has been an honor to work with him in support of Grand Valley, its students, and all of west Michigan.

While his time as president may be coming to an end, his legacy and impact will forever live on.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

#### RECOGNIZING LUIS ALVAREZ

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lou Alvarez, an incredible patriot, Long Islander, and 9/11 first responder who inspired so many just last week in front of the House Judiciary Committee in support of the Never Forget the Heroes Act, which will reauthorize and fully fund the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

After his appearance in D.C., Lou rushed home for his 69th round of chemo. Let me repeat that: After coming all the way down to Washington to beg for the benefits that he and so many others were promised, Lou Alvarez had to rush home for his 69th round of chemo.

Unfortunately, when he got home, things did not go as expected. This morning, I am sad to report, Lou is in hospice, watching us here on the House floor.

Lou is one of the many first responders who raced to Ground Zero on September 11 without a second thought, who, in the weeks following, worked 12-hour shifts on the pile, aiding in the rescue and cleanup efforts.

Lou, like so many of his fellow first responders, was diagnosed with one of the thousands of cancers attributed to the inhalation of toxic air and debris at Ground Zero.

We have lost more 9/11 first responders since 9/11 than we lost people on 9/11 itself. We must fully fund and reauthorize the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

Last Tuesday, like so many times before, Lou once again made the trip to Washington to testify in front of the committee, begging Congress to fully fund the compensation fund.

It wasn't his first time to D.C., not by a long shot. It wasn't his second or third time. Unfortunately, it may have been his last.

The wait has been a disgrace to these first responders, to their families, and to our Nation.

This isn't just a New York issue, and I thank BILL HUIZENGA for staying around for Lou. This isn't a Democratic or Republican Party platform or a political football.

This is a responsibility that we all shoulder as Americans, first and foremost. This is the spirit of our country. It is who we are as a people.

Last Wednesday, following Lou's testimony, the Never Forget the Heroes Act passed committee unanimously. This floor and the Senate need to pass it to make this bill law right away.

I would like to sign off today the way Lou signs off nearly everything he writes, the way he lives his life each and every day, until his very last. Lou Alvarez says, “Still here, still breathing, still fighting.”

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HECK) at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

Very Reverend Canon Martin Shaw, Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and Eternal God, we pause this morning to express our gratitude.