

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, 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 Martini 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.

We especially give thanks and pray for our Nation.

Praying for unity where there is division.

Praying for peace where there is discord.

Praying for love where there is hatred.

Praying for the eradication of all forms of racism, sexism, ageism, inequality, and poverty.

Praying for an end to xenophobia, homophobia, and all other phobias that might plague and poison our Nation.

Praying that we may continue to strive for justice and peace for all people, and always respect the dignity of every human being.

O Lord, bless these United States; for united we stand and divided we fall.

Unite us that we may be more loving and compassionate; more understanding and giving; more inviting and welcoming.

Bless all elected officials, the communities they serve, and every State, every Commonwealth, every city, every district, on every street, and on every doorstep.

And now, O Lord, bless the business proceedings of this day.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

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 Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIANFORTE 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 VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to welcome today's guest chaplain, who is from my district. Father Shaw is the rector of the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia. The church was founded in 1729 as the first black church in the Episcopal Church in the United States. It is also the oldest African American church in Philadelphia.

I have known Father Shaw for many, many years. More recently, I had the pleasure of working closely with him in the Together for West Philadelphia ini-

tiative, which recently celebrated its first year of working to improve health and reduce poverty for the residents of West Philadelphia. That is just one example from his long record of working for social justice.

I know Father Shaw has previously lived in Detroit and Chicago, but I am glad that he has chosen to live where America began, in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of World Refugee Day and in support of the community of refugees who have resettled in my district.

One of these refugees is Kifah Abdulla, who lived in Baghdad until war broke out at home. He spent over 8 years as a prisoner of war. He was isolated because of his activism against the dictatorship.

He was a refugee for 11 years in Amman, Jordan, and 5 years in the Netherlands, before coming to Portland, Maine in 2011. He is now an Arabic teacher, a published poet, a performer, and an activist.

There is a reason America has signed international treaties and passed laws giving shelter to those fleeing persecution. Many refugees, like Mr. Abdulla, were jailed or tortured because they protested, organized, or challenged their government. These values are at the core of our Nation.

Every year, refugees travel 1.2 billion miles in search of safety. And right now, we are in the midst of the greatest refugee crisis since World War II. Sadly, when people fleeing the violence need us most, the administration has dramatically reduced refugee admissions.

In a Nation where nearly all of us have come "from away," as we say in Maine, I urge us all to make our communities warm, safe, and welcoming to refugees across the globe.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT CLIFFORD CHESTER SIMS

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Clifford Chester Sims. Sergeant Sims made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during the Vietnam war.

Sergeant Sims was born in Port St. Joe, Florida, and orphaned at a young

age. He was adopted at age 13 by James and Irene Sims. He met his wife, Mary, and joined the Army after high school.

On February 21, 1968, while behind enemy lines during the Battle of Hue in the Republic of Vietnam, Sims threw himself on a grenade in defense of his squad. Sergeant Sims made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his comrades in arms, all while fighting in the name of liberty.

Sergeant Sims was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions. This week, Bay County officially named June 18 Staff Sergeant Clifford Chester Sims Day.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sergeant Clifford Sims and all our fallen heroes who gave that last full measure of devotion to our Nation.

REMEMBERING THE NAMES AND LIVES OF THE VICTIMS OF ORLANDO'S PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, 49 innocent souls were gunned down at Orlando's Pulse nightclub. In my brief moment here with you, I lift up their first names and their lives.

Edward, Stanley, Ramon, Christopher, Eric, Peter, Luis, Amanda, Jason, Cory, Shane, Kimberly, Eddie, Darryl, Deonka, Anthony, Jean, Luis, Oscar, Enrique, Javier, Jerald, Luis, Tevin, Alejandro, Franky, Martin, Mercedes, Xavier, Gilberto, Simon, Miguel, Joel, Juan, Luis, Juan, Jonathan, Jean, Rodolfo, Brenda, Yilmary, Angel, Frank, Paul, Leroy, Antonio, Christopher, Akyra, and Geraldo.

To Senator McCONNELL and the other leaders, take up legislation that will save lives.

RECOGNIZING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the need to ensure quality healthcare for our veterans and military members who may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

According to the Military Health System, 14 percent of servicemembers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from PTSD. The condition can lead to substance abuse and cause serious physical and mental health problems.

In Montana, 1 in 10 residents are veterans. That is one reason I have acted to expand mental health services in Montana. With increased resources for the VA system, improved access to community healthcare, and the expansion of telemedicine, we can help to ensure that those who have served get