

death among children and teens in Maryland. African-American children and teens in Maryland are five times as likely as their White peers to die by guns. In Maryland, African-Americans are 16 times as likely to die by gun homicide as White people.

In 2017, 53 percent of the guns recovered from Maryland crime scenes came from another State. Often, these guns used in crimes in Maryland are from States with more lenient gun control laws.

American women are 21 times more likely to be killed with a gun than women in other high-income countries; 4.5 million women in the United States have been threatened with a gun by their current or previous intimate partner. It has estimated that 900,000 American women have been shot or shot at by their current or previous intimate partner. When there is a gun present during a domestic violence situation, a woman's risk of being killed goes up 500 percent.

In Maryland, from 2013 to 2017, 48 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner. African-American women are 1.7 times more likely as White women to be fatally shot by a partner. These are women like Maryland resident, Timira Hopkins. Hopkins' relationship with her boyfriend was abusive, and he had made threats before. One night in 2014, Hopkins' boyfriend delivered on his threats, shooting Hopkins five times before killing himself. Incredibly, Hopkins survived, but the right side of her face is paralyzed, and she is deaf in one ear. In September of this year, Hopkins shared her story on NPR in the hopes she can help other survivors.

We need to do more for brave women like Timira Hopkins. We need to join her in the fight to protect people suffering domestic violence. This body understands the dangerous potential consequences of domestic violence perpetrators owning guns. That is why, in 1996, we passed the Lautenberg amendment, banning gun ownership for individuals convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence. However, without universal background checks, we can't effectively enforce this prohibition and keep guns out of the hands of violent abusers.

An estimated 22 percent of U.S. gun owners purchased their most recent firearm without a background check. When background checks are not required, domestic abusers get ahold of guns. In 2018, Sara Schmidt was murdered by her husband, who should have been prohibited from purchasing a firearm because of a domestic violence felony. Schmidt's husband purchased the gun he used to murder Sara from an online private seller, bypassing background check requirements.

Passing legislation to expand background checks to every gun sale, including those conducted online, at gun shows, and through private transfers, should be the top priority in Congress. Congress should also make sure that

background checks are fully completed before a gun sale is finally approved. There is no one answer which will fix America's gun violence epidemic. But we can't let the complexity of the problem paralyze us. We need to take steps forward.

The American people deserve action. They are demanding action. An overwhelming majority of Americans—97 percent—support expanding background checks. Congress must listen to the 97 percent of Americans and take action. We cannot wait any longer. While we wait, Americans are dying, and communities are traumatized by violence. We must do the right thing and take up the House legislation requiring universal and completed background checks for individuals seeking to purchase a gun. The time for action is now.

CONFIRMATION OF STEVEN J. MENASHI

Mr. VAN VOLLEN. Madam President, last week, I voted against Steven Menashi's nomination to serve on the Second Circuit, to the same seat once held by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Throughout his legal career, Menashi has shown himself to be hostile to women's rights, communities of color, and LGBT Americans.

I am disappointed that my colleagues have avoided passing important legislation and have solely focused on confirming many extremist judges. The Senate Republican leader has refused to allow votes on a host of important legislation, including bills to secure our elections from foreign interference, to strengthen background checks, and to reduce the rate of gun violence in our communities, and to provide a path to citizenship for DACA and TPS recipients. All of these bills deserve a vote, but they are all languishing in the Senate legislative graveyard.

Menashi has a record of bias and while at the Department of Education, has repeatedly supported policies that hurt students and borrowers. Alongside Secretary DeVos, Menashi, created an illegal scheme to deny debt relief to defrauded students, including Marylanders. Additionally, Menashi has worked hand-in-hand with Trump senior advisor Steven Miller to advance cruel policies that undermine American values.

The American people deserve better from the U.S. Senate. We should not have voted on and confirmed this nominee and instead should be working on legislation to improve the lives and ensure the safety of our constituents.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY WOOTEN

Mr. BURR. Madam President, Senator THOM TILLIS and I would like to recognize the distinguished service of a great North Carolinian. After a 25-year career with the North Carolina Farm Bureau, Larry Wooten is stepping aside as president at the end of this year.

President Wooten has been a steadfast advocate for agriculture and rural North Carolina.

Larry has worked tirelessly to advance initiatives that strengthen and improve our State's rural communities. He is an exemplary servant leader that has always encouraged others to "give back" to the organizations, the communities, and the State that have provided them with opportunities for growth and advancement. He is a founding member of the NC Rural Economic Development Center where he served on the board of directors and executive committee. He has also served with distinction on the American Farm Bureau Board of Directors, the NC Board of Agriculture, the Agricultural Consortium Board, and the Rural Prosperity Task Force. He has served as chair of the American Farm Bureau Foreign Trade Committee and on USDA's Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee, APAC.

Most significant, however, is the impact Wooten has had on North Carolina agriculture. In his role as president, he has been an effective voice for agribusiness and farmers—educating leaders and lawmakers about the State's largest economic sector and helping shape sound State and national policy for its future. A lifelong farmer from Pender County, North Carolina, Larry knows firsthand the positive impact of a sound agricultural education, research, and extension of that research onto his farm. Larry was a key influencer in the inclusion of NC State University's Plant Sciences Building in North Carolina's Connect NC Bond Referendum, as well as supporting the university's efforts to create new paths for more rural students to earn their NC State degree. Wooten, through his leadership of the Farm Bureau, has been a tireless supporter of NC A&T State University's Small Farms Initiative. All these efforts will create pathways for North Carolinians to have an oversized positive impact on farming and economic development in our state and nation.

Larry Wooten is a remarkable leader who put the wellbeing of our state and its citizens above his own. It is through the work of selfless leaders like Larry that North Carolina has become a state where the weak have an opportunity to grow strong, and the strong can grow great.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE HULMAN-GEORGE FAMILY

• Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the Hulman-George family for their accomplishments and success in business and their stewardship of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the last 75 years.

On November 4, 2019, principals of Hulman & Company announced the sale of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, among other assets of the

Hulman-George family, to a newly formed entity to be led by industry legend Roger Penske. This announcement marks the end of one glorious era, and the start of another for so many Hoosiers and racing fans around the world who recognize Indianapolis Motor Speedway as the racing capital of the world. Beloved as the famous track at 16th and Georgetown in Indianapolis is today, it is nearly impossible to imagine our capital city without it, which was nearly the case.

Shortly after World War II, an era in which the track sat dormant from 1941 through 1945 and fell almost into complete disrepair, a businessman from Terre Haute stepped up to purchase the facility with the goal of continuing and building upon the legacy of the already famous Indianapolis 500. That businessman, Anton "Tony" Hulman, Jr., saved the speedway from either becoming a housing development or a private automobile testing facility.

For the last 75 years, Indianapolis Motor Speedway has been controlled by Hulman & Company, an entity with a deep portfolio but nothing as visible and recognizable worldwide as the famed racecourse. From the initial days of owning the facility and preparing it to run the 1946 race to the celebration of centennial era and beyond, the Hulman-George family has been the steadfast caretaker and promoter of this iconic venue.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has served as the front door to Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, and the entire Midwest for those across the world who travel each year to personally watch the world's largest single day sporting event, the Indianapolis 500, which attracts approximately 350,000 spectators, the NASCAR Brickyard 400, and the IndyCar Grand Prix of Indianapolis. The Speedway has also recently hosted the Formula One United States Grand Prix, Red Bull Air Races, and even a Rolling Stones concert. The economic impact of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to central Indiana in the 75 years that the Hulman-George family has owned the property is incalculable. The personal impact the speedway has had on tens of thousands of families who use the facility as an anchor for what becomes week-end-long reunions is inspiring, as one need not search far on Memorial Day weekend in May to find a family who has been attending the Indy 500 as a group for as long as can be remembered.

The facility which started as a testing ground for Indiana's growing automotive industry in 1909 became a testing ground of speed, endurance, strength, and the will to win over the last 110 years. Without the Hulman-George family, that story would have likely ended in the 1940s.

Madam President, I want to personally thank the Hulman-George family for their amazing commitment and contributions to the State of Indiana and the United States of America. Both are better because of this family.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

● Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, the Rotary Club of Lafayette will turn 100 years old in 2020. I would like to share with you some of the accomplishments of the club since its founding in 1920. Early in their history, they underwrote the election to fund the first public library, they helped to establish One Acadiana and started the first Lafayette Boy Scout troop. In addition to establishing Rotary Park in the 1980s, they currently fund annual scholarships for local students, coordinate food drives for FoodNet, and support Rotary's mission to eradicate polio worldwide, in addition to supporting other local charities.

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Lafayette on this historic achievement. I wish you all the best of luck in years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TINA QUIGLEY

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I come forward today to recognize the chief executive officer of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Tina Quigley, who, after over 14 years of dedicated service, announced her retirement this year.

Tina Quigley has been a visionary during her tenure at the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada. Her forward thinking and planning for the future has led the RTC to be named one of the most efficient transit providers in the Nation. Her leadership has helped Southern Nevada reap the benefits of an advanced transportation system that has helped attract tourists, residents, and new businesses.

Ms. Quigley has over 25 years of experience in transportation management. She has consistently been on the leading edge of improving how residents, workers, and visitors travel the Las Vegas Valley. With a rapidly growing population of 2.1 million residents and more than 42 million annual visitors, that is no small task. Her determination in pushing for technological advancements, forging partnerships, and strategizing for the future have positioned the region for ongoing and sustained economic growth.

Ms. Quigley is also a licensed pilot and earned her bachelor of science degree in aviation business and planning from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. She is a former manager of one of the Nation's busiest airports, McCarran International Airport, and has amassed an impressive number of professional achievements throughout her career.

The incredible work that Ms. Quigley has done for Southern Nevada has not gone unrecognized. She has earned numerous awards for her leadership, innovation, and vision. These awards include but are not limited to the Woman

of Distinction Award for Government Services by the National Association of Women Business Owners, the Carolyn M. Sparks Founders Award from the Nevada International Women's Forum, and the 2012 Women in Transportation award from Metro Magazine.

Ms. Quigley has also remembered to give back to her community and has directed her energy, passion, and commitment into bettering the Las Vegas Valley. She serves on a multitude of boards and committees in Southern Nevada, including as chairperson of the Desert Research Institute Foundation, which supports the nonprofit environmental science research branch of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Today, I celebrate the many contributions of Tina Quigley to the city of Las Vegas and to the Southern Nevada community. Her service is as an example to all of us who wish to innovate, serve, and better our communities.●

TRIBUTE TO JAY HILDEBRANDT

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I congratulate Jay Hildebrandt, who is retiring after more than four decades in news reporting.

Jay has worked for KIFI's Local News 8 in Idaho Falls for the past 35 years. As an anchor for the weeknight news, Jay is known for his calm, gentle demeanor and steady role delivering the news. Originally, from Milwaukee, WI, Jay earned a degree in communications from Brigham Young University. Before anchoring for our local news, he anchored in Twin Falls and Fort Wayne, IN. Thankfully, he then returned to Idaho, where we have been blessed with Jay's reliable, professional and compassionate reporting all these years.

His positive influence can be felt throughout our community. Jay has made a difference in many lives through his involvement in impactful projects and community and statewide efforts. In addition to anchoring the weeknight news, Jay produced the weekly "Wednesday's Child" reports for 28 years. Through this project, he has helped elevate the stories of area children in need of adoptive homes. He also highlighted the hard work of remarkable high school seniors in his "Distinguished Student" series. Additionally, Jay has served as an adjunct instructor at Brigham Young University Idaho and helped lead important efforts, including his service on the Governor's Children's Trust Fund Board, the Region VII Health and Welfare Advisory Board, and the Safe Place Advisory Board.

While most of us enjoyed Jay over the years on the television, there are those who have been able to work with him personally. And without exception, he is admired, emulated and respected by his coworkers. One of those fortunate individuals is my current chief of staff in DC, Susan Hawkes Wheeler. She got her start just out of college