

I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, his son, his three daughters, and his stepson in this sad time, and I pray that they may find peace.

REMEMBERING THE JULY 20, 2012,
AURORA THEATRE MASSACRE

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of victims of gun violence.

Gun violence rips through a community, leaving trauma with the families and friends of the victims, the medical staff, the first responders, and the entire community for a lifetime. It is a trauma and a scar too many communities in Colorado have faced, as well as the rest of the Nation.

I represented Aurora, Colorado, on July 20, 2012, during the Aurora Theatre massacre. I will never forget the victims and the families impacted by that tragedy, including, A.J. Boik, 18; Jon Blunk; Jesse Childress; Gordon Cowden, who died protecting his children; Jessica Ghawi; John Larimer; Matt McQuinn; Micayla Medek; Veronica Moser-Sullivan, only 6 years old; Alex Sullivan; Alexander Teves; and Rebecca Wingo.

These people died far too young. These stories are just a few of the 36,000 Americans killed each year, and 100,000 Americans shot and injured by firearms. We cannot let this type of violence and tragedy rip through another community.

Let's make 2020 the year we finally honor these victims with action.

□ 1415

CELEBRATING GHOST TOWN TRAIL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Ghost Town Trail that runs between Ebensburg and Blairsville, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently named the Ghost Town Trail the Pennsylvania Trail of the Year.

As a lifelong Pennsylvanian and avid outdoorsman, I am proud the 15th District is leading the way in developing and growing Pennsylvania's extensive trail network. It is important we cultivate an appreciation of the outdoors.

We know trails are environmentally friendly, but they also are economically friendly. Trails boost real estate values. They present new business opportunities and bolster tourist-related revenue. The 44-mile long Ghost Town Trail provides all of these benefits.

According to some experts, if it continues on its current trajectory, it will be the first trail in the East to connect in a full loop.

The Trail of the Year award is well deserved for the Ghost Town Trail, and I am proud to recognize it here today.

COMMONSENSE GUN REFORM
NEEDED

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, every day, dozens of Americans lose their lives to guns. If a virus killed dozens of Americans each day, we would treat it as a public health emergency. But despite that loss of life from gun violence, our country has failed to implement commonsense gun reform.

One of those solutions is my bill, the COOL OFF Act, which would establish a 3-day waiting period on all handgun sales, to take the passion out of crimes of passion.

Research has shown waiting periods reduce murders by 17 percent and suicides by 10 percent. A national waiting period would save hundreds if not thousands of lives each year by preventing handgun sales to those motivated toward crimes of passion.

Thousands of Americans have died as we have waited to pass gun reform. By passing the COOL OFF Act, we can ensure that a wait of just 3 days starts to save lives.

CONGRESS SHOULD GET BACK TO
WORK

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow will be the culmination of a very predictable series of events.

There were never 67 votes to convict the President. There was never any bipartisan support for impeachment. This contrived process was never going to be successful, and everybody knew it.

When House Democrats, first in a hurry in December to get the articles through, and then after a month's delay sent the articles over to the Senate, they claimed their case was compelling and overwhelming, yet their case had zero actual evidence and was made only of opinion or speculation or third-hand comments.

Then the Democrat impeachment managers asked for more witnesses in order to prove their case that they had rushed through the House. Pure hypocrisy. The same has surrounded this entire so-called process.

From quid pro quo to extortion to bribery, they have continuously grasped for straws—the same straws they try to ban in California, by the way—that would make their narrative more compelling.

Here we are, over 4 months since this inquiry was announced, yet they found not a way to convince Americans that the President has committed an actual crime.

Once the Senate votes to acquit the President, we must get back to work and do actual things.

AWARD DORIS MILLER WITH
MEDAL OF HONOR

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to recognize the life and legacy of Doris Miller.

Miller was stationed on the USS *West Virginia* during the attack at Pearl Harbor. Once the attack began, Miller left his role in the kitchen to rescue shipmates and provide cover fire.

News hit Waco, Texas, where I was a little girl, that said he helped to stop the U.S. invasion by the Japanese. Miller was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroics, though his actions unquestionably merited the Medal of Honor.

I recently attended a ceremony at Pearl Harbor with the Acting Secretary of the Navy to announce the naming of the future aircraft carrier in his honor. This will be the first aircraft carrier named for an African American sailor. It is appreciated, but it is not the Medal of Honor.

I have introduced H.R. 5549, the Doris Miller Medal of Honor Act of 2020. This bill would waive the statute of limitations to upgrade Miller's Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
SHELDON WHITEMAN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Long County Deputy Sheriff Sheldon Whiteman, who died in the line of duty on January 23 at the age of 44.

Deputy Whiteman was assisting in a vehicle pursuit in the First Congressional District of Georgia when his vehicle left the roadway. Deputy Whiteman had been with the Long County Sheriff's Office for only 4 months at the time of the incident.

Previously, Deputy Whiteman worked with the Chatham County Police Department and was a POST Certified Peace Officer since 2016.

Deputy Whiteman is survived by his wife, Alisa Ann, and his three sons.

It is, unfortunately, times like these when we remember the risks that our law enforcement officers take every day that they put on their uniforms. I encourage everyone to take some time to thank our law enforcement officers for the work they do to keep our communities safe.

Deputy Whiteman's family and friends, as well as the Long County and Chatham County police departments will be in my thoughts and prayers during these most difficult times.

RECOGNIZING THE TOLL GUN VIOLENCE TAKES ON SURVIVORS

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the toll that gun violence takes on survivors left to struggle in the wake of unspeakable tragedy.

When we talk about gun violence, we usually focus on lives lost, but the full cost of gun violence is measured in the lives irreparably changed by physical and mental wounds. Survivors are the students who hid under desks and in closets at their schools, domestic violence victims who tried to hold front doors shut and shield their children, and families left with holes where loved ones used to be. I know because I am a gun violence survivor.

According to Everytown, 58 percent of Americans have witnessed or been threatened with gun violence or know someone who has. This is National Gun Violence Survivors Week. Let's honor survivors by refusing to let their experiences become the new normal.

RURAL AMERICANS NEED ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CARE

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, over the past decade, more than 100 rural hospitals have been forced to close their doors, including 12 hospitals in Tennessee. These communities are now left without access to healthcare in general, let alone emergency care.

Many rural hospitals across the Nation continue to face significant financial difficulties. As this crisis continues at a growing rate, current Federal regulations stand in the way, only allowing a free-standing emergency department within 35 miles of a hospital.

My bill, the Rural ER Access Act, would repeal this ridiculous 35-mile rule to permit free-standing emergency departments to operate in the rural communities that need them the most.

As an emergency medicine physician, I believe that we should and can make sure that rural Americans are not left without access to emergency care because of some unnecessary bureaucratic regulation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAY). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore MATSUI on Monday, February 3, 2020:

S. 153, to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research;

S. 3201, to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to her left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of purporting to reserve seats prior to the joint session by placement of placards or personal items will not be allowed. Chamber Security may remove these items from the seats. Members may reserve their seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in still photography or audio or video recording in the Chamber. Taking unofficial photographs detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security and privacy challenges for the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2034

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 86 TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU);

The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS);

The gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY); and

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG);

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN);

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN);

The Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN); and

The Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of