

taking the lead with their Safe Communities Committee and our educational institutions for their security upgrades and initiatives.

Despite this Congress, more work lies ahead. And that is personal to me, because the violence must stop.

Let me end by sharing one more message from the Queen City. Our city's comedians at Charlotte Squawks took a break from being funny to add a somber note to the comedy show.

To the tune of "This Land is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie:

This land is Parkland,  
It's Columbine and  
It's Thousands Oaks at  
A student line dance.  
From Santa Fe High School  
To Virginia Beach murders,  
This stuff is not okay with me.  
As I keep watching  
This endless violence,  
With thoughts and prayers for  
A moment of silence,  
The politicians  
Are doing nothing,  
This stuff is not okay with me.

I agree. This is not okay with me. We need sensible gun laws, and we need them right now.

#### HAROLD KNIGHT AND DAVID HALE TO BE INDUCTED INTO GRAND NATIONAL TURKEY CALLERS HALL OF FAME

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trigg Countians Harold Knight and David Hale for their coming induction into the Grand National Turkey Callers Hall of Fame. Next week in Nashville, they will be formally recognized for this high honor within the hunting and turkey calling world.

Kentuckians are notably passionate about hunting and outdoors, but maybe none as much as Harold and David. Their impact on this unique industry cannot be understated.

Starting in the early 1970s, these two individuals started Knight & Hale Game Calling and have been promoting their passion for the outdoors ever since. What began as a small startup out of a basement has become a successful and recognized enterprise within the hunting industry.

After 40 years of work and raising significant attention to the field of game calling, I am thrilled to see two of my constituents receive this very high honor. This distinguished accomplishment is certainly something to be proud of and is deserving of recognition by this entire body.

#### HONORING THE PADUCAH WORKFORCE EFFORTS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, near the end of last week, I had the privilege of being back home in Kentucky and, as I try to do often, visit with constituents and see some of the exciting programs underway in the First Congressional District.

While stopping in the city of Paducah, I had the opportunity to see some

of the life-changing workforce development opportunities becoming available to our citizens. In a time when we have more available jobs than qualified workers to fill them, both the McCracken County Jail and Paducah's school system are stepping up to fill the void.

At the local jail, I saw the great work they are doing to provide low-level inmates with a pathway to becoming productive members of society. The training programs they are providing for welding and HVAC training will help fill critical workforce gaps and reduce incarceration rates over the long term.

Once operational, the Paducah Innovation Hub will house technical classes like carpentry, welding, and engineering. I was excited to see the construction of this new innovative facility, which will be a model for education moving forward.

The old model of 4-year degrees and piles of student loan debt are not the answer for moving forward in education. Instead, we must emphasize certificates and skills training. I thoroughly enjoyed traveling my district and seeing firsthand the need for a more skills-based education system moving forward.

I am proud to represent McCracken County in this distinguished body, and I look forward to seeing the great work being done by the McCracken County Jail—and, in the future, the Paducah Innovation Hub—become a model for both Kentucky and the entire Nation.

#### COMMENDING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SUCCESSFUL WEEK

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Trump for the overwhelmingly successful week he has had in Washington.

In addition to delivering a strong and forward-looking vision to the country on Tuesday night, the President has finally been acquitted of the baseless smear charges leveled against him by NANCY PELOSI and ADAM SCHIFF.

The historically partisan impeachment put forward by House Democrats was a stain on American history. But, thankfully, their desperate attempt to silence the will of the American people is finally behind us.

Starting with President Trump's unifying State of the Union Address, the country is now ready to move forward. It is long past time for Congress to join the President in advancing a positive agenda that will improve the lives of every single American. That includes moving on from classless actions like tearing up Presidential speeches on national television.

Whether it be the current economic boom, fairer trade deals, or steady leadership in keeping America safe, the President has a strong record of accomplishment. But, as always, we have more challenges to tackle.

I sincerely hope to see the Democrats move beyond the politics of impeachment and resistance and get to work for the American people. It is time for

action on lowering healthcare costs, securing the southern border, and continuing to advance our Nation's tremendous economic momentum.

I hope to see my Democrat colleagues join me in supporting the President's efforts to improve opportunities for working families and keep Americans safe. The millions of Americans whom we represent expect and deserve nothing less.

#### NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Gun Violence Survivors Week and to honor and support the Oregonians and people across the country who have been affected by gun violence.

Gun violence is a public health crisis in this country. Each year, more than 36,000 people, nationwide, including almost 500 Oregonians, are killed by guns, and more than 100,000 people across the country are injured by gunfire.

For those survivors of gun violence and the friends and families of those killed, life will never be the same.

Nobody is immune to the threat of gun violence, and communities have been forced to take what should be unthinkable steps to protect themselves.

Parents are buying bulletproof backpacks for their young children.

Schools across the country are conducting active-shooter drills to make sure their students know what to do in the event of an attack. These drills often cause trauma for students and for educators.

At a townhall meeting, a student told me the first thing she does when she goes into a classroom is she looks where to hide and how to escape.

As a mom, this is heartbreaking; as a policymaker, it is unacceptable. Kids in classrooms should be focused on learning, not being fearful for their lives. This is not normal, and it should never be normal.

But there is reason to be hopeful. Families and communities in Oregon and around the country are rising up and demanding change. Students are demanding that Congress finally take action to protect them.

This Congress, we took the critical step of passing H.R. 8, a comprehensive bipartisan background check bill that will save lives if it is enacted. I call on Leader MCCONNELL to immediately bring H.R. 8 to the floor. We cannot wait any longer. Every day this bill languishes in the Senate is another day when people are dying in Oregon and around the country.

We will not rest until we have done all we can to reduce gun violence in this country. We owe it to the children who are looking for a place to hide in the classrooms; we owe it to the families who are mourning their loved ones

they have lost; and we owe it to the communities that are forever changed by gun violence.

I stand in solidarity with the survivors of gun violence.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BUCKS COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking, a group working to eradicate human trafficking in Bucks County and in our entire region. The Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking is a project created by the Network of Victim Assistance, working to end this modern-day slavery.

Members of NOVA received recognition recently from the Bucks County Board of Commissioners for their work to educate our community and to raise awareness.

The project was established to encourage victim identification, community education, enhancement of arrests and prosecution of traffickers, legislative advocacy, and a coordinated response for survivor services.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that 25 million people across the globe are victims of human trafficking, and approximately 75 percent of these victims are women and girls. Statistics show that one in seven children who run away from home end up being trafficked.

Mr. Speaker, one of the first bills I introduced this Congress, the End Banking for Human Traffickers Act of 2019, would increase the role of financial institutions in combating human trafficking, which is an incredibly important part of this fight.

I call upon the House to bring this commonsense legislation to a vote, and to continue to work to support the victims of human trafficking.

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#### RECOGNIZING 2019 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST OF THE YEAR, DR. JULIA SZARKO

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Julia Szarko, who was recently named the 2019 School Psychologist of the Year by the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Szarko is in her 23rd year as a school psychologist, currently working at Cold Spring Elementary in Central Bucks County, Pennsylvania. A former president of the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania, Dr. Szarko has worked for years to expand school-based mental health services in Pennsylvania and to address the national school psychologist shortages across the country.

Ensuring students have access to mental health resources is vital to their current and their future success, along with that of their peers as well.

With only 20 percent of America's youth receiving the mental health services they need, further action must be taken to expand access to these services in schools, which is legislation that Dr. Szarko helped us draft.

We need more people like Dr. Szarko working to ensure that children in Pennsylvania and across our Nation have the resources and support they need to succeed.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LESLIE KOLIFRATH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Leslie Kolifrath, who recently passed away after a brave and courageous fight with breast cancer.

A lifelong resident of Bucks County, Leslie always put the needs of others ahead of her own. She was very much beloved by her family, her friends, her pets, and her coworkers.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Leslie personally through the amazing work she did throughout Lower Bucks County, particularly Bristol Township, and helping so many people. The one thing that we all remember about Leslie is that no issue was too small for her to tackle when it came to protecting and serving the residents of Bristol Township and Lower Bucks County.

So we offer our prayers to Leslie's family. We stand by her family in this very difficult time.

She is now enjoying her eternal reward for a life she lived serving others in Bucks County and across our region.

#### RECOGNIZING IVY HILL THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, changing the lives for individuals with cognitive, physical, emotional, behavioral, and psychological needs.

For over 20 years, the Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Hilltown, Bucks County, has created therapeutic programs for people of all ages and levels of ability utilizing the equine experience.

In addition to equine-assisted activities, Ivy Hill collaborates with several community partners to provide job training through specialized programs dedicated to an exponentially-growing special needs population in our region and across the country. Through these programs, Ivy Hill serves over 150 program riders with more than a dozen trained therapy horses, led by nearly 200 staff members and volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, their motto is: "Horses + Love = Hope" and, having heard firsthand the heartwarming testimonials of riders and their families, it is clear that this equation is holding very true. We are very thankful for all they do for our special needs population and everybody in our region.

#### GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gun Violence Survivors Week.

The gun violence epidemic in our Nation is destroying lives. A recent study found that 58 percent of adults in America reported that they or someone they care about has experienced gun violence in their lifetime. Think about that. More than half of the adults in America have been touched by gun violence. It doesn't have to be this way.

In January of last year, our former colleague and gun violence survivor, Gabby Giffords, joined me, the Speaker, and members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force as we introduced H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019. It was 8 years to the day that she was shot. Gabby had one message for us in Congress. She said: "We must never stop fighting."

And the House did just that. We kept fighting, and we passed H.R. 8 almost 1 year ago, 344 days ago, to be exact.

Majority Leader MCCONNELL has had 344 days to act—to fight gun violence. What has he done? Nothing. Nothing. Not one vote, not one hearing. Survivors have called on him to act. More than 90 percent of Americans support the bill. Why won't he give the bill a vote?

Every time there is a mass shooting that makes headlines, the Republican leadership sends thoughts and prayers.

Survivors don't want your thoughts and prayers; they want a vote. They want to keep guns away from felons. They want to keep guns away from domestic abusers.

I call on the Senate to act. Honor survivors. Do your job. Pass H.R. 8 for Gabby and for every survivor across our country.

#### PROTECT MEDICAID

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to stand here today to support H. Res. 826, the protect Medicaid resolution. I am proud to go on record today to spotlight the administration's continuous attempts to take away healthcare for Americans, especially those most vulnerable, such as seniors and those with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Medicaid was created in recognition of the importance of healthcare for all Americans. Even though many low-income people have jobs, working every single day, the reality is that they don't have access to employer or private health insurance, and Medicaid fills that gap.

It is such a sad reality that we need to remind this administration that the purpose of Medicaid is to provide healthcare for low-income individuals and families. Medicaid recognizes the humanity of everyone, despite their socioeconomic status.

When I was on the Budget Committee, I repeatedly voted against pernicious efforts to change the Federal-