

least one victim of gun violence in their lifetime. Imagine who that might be in your own life.

344: That is the number of days that have gone by since House Democrats passed not one but two safety bills to help bring an end to senseless suffering. For 344 days, both of these bills have been met by MITCH MCCONNELL's wall of obstruction. These are bipartisan bills that are also supported by 90 percent of Americans across political ideology, and they require immediate action.

Senator MCCONNELL, your complacency is lethal. Every day you fail to act is another day that more Americans suffer loss. Stop the silence. Start doing your job, and change the course of gun violence in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward Members of the Senate. Members are further reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

SENATE SHOULD ENACT COMMON-SENSE SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing the great State of Colorado. Unfortunately, Colorado is no stranger to gun violence.

I was 14 years old when my high school was put on lockdown. Soon after, my classmates and I learned that, just a couple of miles down the road, a terrible tragedy was unfolding at Columbine High School, a terrible tragedy in which 13 people were shot and killed.

One of those 13 victims was a 14-year-old boy named Daniel Mauser. This week, I brought Daniel's father, Tom Mauser, to the State of the Union to highlight the urgent need for action on the gun violence epidemic. He sat here in the gallery just a few days ago as the President delivered his State of the Union and heard that the President failed to mention any effort to engage in gun violence prevention and to deal with the public health crisis that we face.

For 20 years, Tom has bravely converted his pain and his anguish into action, pushing for gun violence prevention. Yet 20 years later, he and, frankly, the entire State of Colorado are still waiting on Congress to address the most basic and commonsense solutions to gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise for Tom. I rise for his son.

I rise for the so many victims that we have lost to gun violence across Colorado and across our country. I rise today for the more than 100,000 Americans who every year survive a gunshot wound and now face the lifelong physical and emotional toll surviving gun violence takes on an individual.

I rise today to give voice to the millions of Americans across this great country who are tired of the Senate's leadership being held hostage by the special interest gun lobby.

I rise today because all Americans have a right to make their communities safe from the onslaught of gun violence that this country witnesses day after day. They have a right to demand the dangerous loopholes like the Charleston loophole are closed. They have a right to demand an end to the unbelievable number of military-style firearms flowing through their streets.

And demanded they have, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, a majority of Americans support creating a red flag law, by way of example, allowing police or family members to request a judge to temporarily remove guns from individuals who may be dangerous. A majority of Americans think that it is absolutely ridiculous that we do not require universal background checks for gun purchases at gun shows or other private sales. And a majority of Americans think that it is beyond comprehensible that Members of Congress would stand in the way of working to ensure that individuals do not have access to weapons of mass murder.

Let us be clear, Mr. Speaker. Let us be clear. The gun violence epidemic that has gripped this country is neither a Democratic nor Republican issue, but, rather, one of national importance, the solutions to which must not face further delay.

We have grieved together; we have demanded change together; and we have been shocked by the paralysis that has gripped this institution when it comes to tackling our country's gun violence epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, I will close simply by saying the time has well since passed when we should have enacted these commonsense reforms. We should have done it 20 years ago. There is bipartisan legislation in the Senate right now that will address these pressing issues, and it is time for the Senate majority leader to bring that legislation to the Senate floor for a vote. Coloradans and Americans have waited long enough.

SUPPORT PUERTO RICO EARTHQUAKE SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the thousands of our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters surviving the loss and trauma of ongoing natural disasters that have ravaged the island of Puerto Rico, the youth, the elderly, the ill, the unhoused, those in poverty, and those living with disabilities who find themselves disproportionately harmed by food and healthcare insecurity, frequent power outages, infrastructure collapse, and barriers to transparency.

Just last month, 13-year-old Jaideliz Moreno Ventura died due to chronic medical supply shortages. The only medical center on her island, Vieques, has not reopened its doors since Hurricane Maria 3 years ago.

To this day, 240,000 students and their educators must stay home because their schools are still too unsafe to open, and 5,000 families remain displaced from their homes.

But the fear and anguish are not limited to those remaining on the island. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts proudly boasts the fifth largest Puerto Rican community in the country, and in the Massachusetts Seventh Congressional District, I represent 35,000 Puerto Ricans.

I have borne witness to both the strength and the pain of those who were displaced after Hurricane Maria who now call Boston home and those Puerto Ricans who have called Boston home for decades who fear for their family members who are still on the island. They share with me their ongoing fear for their families in Puerto Rico facing ongoing threats to their homes and their lives.

For too long, this administration has turned its back on the people of Puerto Rico. It is shameful, and we must not allow it to continue.

I am grateful for the leadership of Chairwoman LOWEY and Chairman NEAL in working to organize this much-needed funding package that we will vote on later today. I also recognize my colleague from New York, Representative VELÁZQUEZ, for her unwavering love, which has informed her unwavering fight for the island.

In my own district, I thank IBA, Chelsea Collaborative, Somos de Sabana Grande, the Puerto Rican Veterans Association, and many more. I urge my colleagues to support this package, H.R. 5687.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESAULNIER) at noon.

PRAYER

Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, perhaps our petitions weary and tire You but, as Your children, to whom else do You suggest we turn for guidance, strength and consolation. So, God, let's make a deal: If

You hear our prayer, we will heed Your wisdom, or at least try to.

In the midst of darkness, You are light; enlighten us. In the midst of discord, You are harmony; mend us.

When we swagger with self-righteousness, remind us that You are righteousness. When we hasten to justify ourselves, remind us You are our justification.

We thank You, God, for the blessings of vibrant, industrious newcomers from many nations that make our Nation stronger.

When, in our shadows, we despair; create hope in Your brightness. When, in our frailty, we doubt; give us faith in Your strength. When, out of fear and ignorance, we hate, make us wise and secure in Your love.

God, please, faith, hope, and love, without end.

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 gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SHERRILL 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 MONSIGNOR KEVIN SULLIVAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Monsignor Kevin Sullivan as a guest chaplain here today.

Monsignor Sullivan is the Executive Director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of New York.

Monsignor Sullivan also represents Catholic Charities agencies in public policy discussions about immigration, welfare reform, job development, and foster care. He joins us on a day when we welcome more than 500 Dominican Americans from around the country to celebrate Dominican heritage and discuss civic engagement and issues affecting the Dominican community across the country.

A native of the Bronx, the Monsignor served as a parish priest at St. Elizabeth's Church, my church, in Washington Heights, which is home to a historic and thriving Dominican American community.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Monsignor Sullivan for his service to our community and to all New Yorkers and I am proud to see him give the invocation in the House of Representatives today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POSITIVE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge The Positive Community magazine on its 20th anniversary.

The Positive Community started as an idea of two broadcasting professionals, Adrian Council, Sr., and Jean Nash Wells. They were tired of all of the negative press about African Americans. They wanted to create a publication that focused on the good news coming from these communities.

They started with a newsletter and distributed it to churches and community centers. It became so popular that they turned it into a magazine. Today, The Positive Community magazine and its website highlights great events and people from our African American culture.

I applaud their efforts and encourage more people to read it. It is time to hear more positive stories from African Americans in their communities.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, February is American Heart Month, a month where we especially recognize and promote positive heart health.

Currently, 302,000 people in South Carolina have coronary heart disease. I am thankful for the great work of the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease and the American Heart Association for their steps to spread awareness about heart disease, the number one killer of men and women in America.

I am grateful that, in the Second Congressional District, we have many incredible events to recognize heart health, including the Heart Walk, held in Aiken and the Midlands. These walks raise critical funds to help save lives from heart disease.

As a volunteer with the Lexington County Heart Association, I know

firsthand of the dedicated personnel. I appreciate American Heart Association Executive Director Crystal Kirkland of the Midlands and Jackie Lipscomb of the American Heart Association-CSRA.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations, President Donald Trump, for your deserved exoneration.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Every day in America, 103 people are killed by gun violence, and many more survivors are left to deal with the life-long trauma. This is horrific and it demands action.

It is one of the reasons that last year the House Judiciary Committee, on which I sit, as well as the House of Representatives, passed for the first time in over a quarter century, significant gun legislation. We passed universal background checks.

It is now before the Republican-controlled Senate, and I ask them to simply do their jobs and put that bill up for a vote.

I am also grateful that last month, California's 33rd Congressional District's Youth Advisory Council, which consists of high school students in the area, got together to discuss ways to address the gun violence epidemic.

At their recommendation, I am proud to lend my support to bills like Ghost Guns Are Guns Act and Jaime's Law, both of which I believe will protect American lives.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT AICHELE

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a true community leader, Mr. Robert "Bob" Aichele, of Lancaster, who passed away at the age of 92 on Tuesday. Bob was a friend to everyone and would always greet you with a signature warm smile.

He spent his life in service to others, in service to the Nation as a seaman first class in the United States Navy, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

He also served his community, serving as the president of many boards and associations, and was a Manor Township supervisor for more than 25 years.

When he was not serving the community he loved, Bob was with his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Mary Anne, five children, 15 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.