

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.

Madam Speaker, my prayers and condolences are with his family, with those who grieve, and all those who had the opportunity to know Bob. I know I always appreciated his friendship and I will cherish the time that we had together.

While we mourn the loss of Bob, we must also give thanks for the life that he lived and the time that we had to spend with him.

#### THE TRAGEDY OF GUN VIOLENCE IS PREVENTABLE

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, there have been 37 days so far in 2020. More gun deaths happened in this country in the first 37 days than in every other high-income nation in a year.

The tragedy of gun violence in this country is that it is preventable; 36,000 American lives are needlessly lost annually. Tens of thousands more are shot, injured, or left grieving for a family member, like Jamie McLaughlin from my community in New Jersey.

Twenty-eight years ago, Jamie's brother, Chet, was shot and killed. In honor of Chet and National Gun Violence Survivors Week, Jamie recently shared that there is not a day that goes by that she doesn't ache for her brother's presence in her life.

Families across this country grieve like Jamie, waiting for the Senate to have the courage to act.

We passed a bipartisan background check bill 344 days ago, a commonsense measure that more than 90 percent of Americans in this country support.

We owe action to victims, survivors, and families torn apart by gun violence. It is time, past time, that the Senate acts and passes H.R. 8.

#### HONORING THE LIVES OF FRANK AND CINDA EDWARDS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Frank and Cinda Edwards from Springfield, Illinois, who tragically died in a plane crash last week.

Frank and Cinda were my good friends. I met Frank when he was the fire chief in Springfield, Illinois. Frank was a proud Illinois National Guardsman, a former alderman, and a former mayor. Everyone who knew Frank knew that he was not afraid to speak his mind, and we will miss that.

Cinda worked as a nurse for 27 years before becoming the Sangamon County Coroner. She truly loved her job as coroner and took pride in making the office the best it could be.

I was blessed to see Cinda days before the tragic crash. I can't believe they are gone.

I still owe Frank a cheeseburger from Bill's Toasty for a wager he won with me last year. It will be a reminder when I eat that cheeseburger that life is too short.

My thoughts and prayers are truly with their son, Alex, during this impossibly difficult time.

Springfield won't be the same without you, Frank and Cinda.

God bless.

#### GUN VIOLENCE IS AN EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, what if I told you there was an epidemic in the United States that has killed close to 40,000 people, just in the year 2019 alone?

And what if I told you this epidemic has taken the lives of almost 8,000 people since 2014 in California alone?

I am not talking about coronavirus, or Ebola, or AIDS, or some global pandemic. This public health crisis is uniquely American. I am talking, of course, about gun violence.

We have let this public health epidemic go unchecked far too long. If gun violence were a disease with the death numbers I just shared with you, we would not rest until we had a cure. But because many Members of Congress are frozen in their ability to act in the face of the money the NRA pours into the gun lobby, we haven't acted; especially the Senate has not stepped up to act.

This week is National Gun Violence Survivors Week, where we honor the lives lost to gun violence and share the stories of those whose lives have been affected.

This disease does have a cure. We need the Senate to hear our urgency and to act on gun violence legislation now.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF FIRE CHIEF MIKE BRENT

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute a life of service. Next week, Fire Chief Mike Brent will hang up his helmet and enter a well-deserved retirement.

Mike joined the Fluvanna County Volunteer Fire Department in January of 1977 as a member of the Palmyra Volunteer Fire Company. He quickly rose through the ranks, and just 10 years later he was elected to serve as the Chief of Fluvanna County Volunteer Department; leading volunteers from Palmyra, Fork Union, and Kents Store.

During his 32 years as chief, he was instrumental in many significant improvements to the delivery of fire and EMS services in Fluvanna County, to include a capital improvements plan

for three new, state-of-the-art firehouses.

Even after retiring as chief, Mike continues to volunteer as a member of the Palmyra Volunteer Fire Company; a true testament to his resolute commitment and unwavering service to our community.

Chief Brent truly embodies what it means to be selfless and putting others' needs before his own. We are forever grateful for his service.

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#### PROTECTING NATION'S WORKFORCE AGAINST EROSION OF THEIR RIGHTS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

For over 3 years, the Trump administration has waged an assault on organized labor, limiting unions' ability to fairly represent the American workforce while undermining safeguards that protect against discrimination and unsafe working conditions.

This bill will protect our Nation's workforce against this erosion of their rights. The PRO Act introduces meaningful, enforceable penalties for companies that violate workers' rights to unionize, streamlines access to justice for workers who suffer retaliation, facilitates collective bargaining, and increases transparency in labor relations.

Our Nation was not built by gold or silver but was built by labor. Protecting the rights of workers to organize strengthens our workforce, our economy, and our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill.

#### COMMEMORATING LEGACY OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN ON HIS BIRTHDAY

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the legacy of President Ronald Reagan on his birthday.

Some have called him Ronnie, the Gipper, or the Great Communicator. No matter what you call him, he was the right President for this country at the right time.

President Reagan came into office with the world still in crisis over the Cold War and a country under the crushing weight of stagflation. By the time President Reagan left office, the economy roared and Reagan's words had inflicted a mortal blow to the Berlin Wall. Shortly after leaving office, the Berlin Wall fell and the threat of communism along with it.

President Reagan led this country with conviction. His conservative principles empowered millions of people