

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.

□ 1215

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

from coast-to-coast and across the world. His words struck fear into the hearts of our enemies and warmed the hearts of our friends.

We have a lot to learn from President Reagan's life, his legacy, and his leadership.

RECOGNIZING VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, this is National Gun Violence Survivors Week, and I rise to recognize the victims and survivors of domestic violence across the United States who have felt the effects of our weak gun laws.

Just last week in my community in Miami, a man killed his infant son's mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother with a high-powered rifle before abducting the days-old baby. The infant, Andrew, is still missing.

Stories like this are not unusual in this country. Women in the United States are 21 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than in other high-income countries.

When we don't take action, it is people like Andrew, his mother, his grandmother, and his great-grandmother who pay the price.

Andrew deserves to grow up with his family. He deserves leaders who prioritize his well-being over the violent whims of abusers. He deserves a chance at life not tinged with tragedy.

GUN VIOLENCE IS MISNOMER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, it is indeed National Gun Violence Survivors Week. We all share in mourning the loss of those lives that have been taken by those filled with anger, hate, and evil. However, gun violence is a misnomer.

Evil lies in the hearts of people. Guns are inanimate objects, much like this pen, which isn't going to move for the entire time I am making this speech.

It is naive to believe that more gun seizures, more violations of our Second Amendment, are going to do anything other than create more victims in gun-free zones. Ask Jack Wilson, who stopped evil because he was armed in that church in Texas recently.

It is naive to think that evil will be disarmed. Only the innocent will be disarmed in this continued press to have our Second Amendment violated and eliminated.

LOSING LOVED ONE TO GUN VIOLENCE IS WOUND THAT NEVER HEALS

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I rise today during National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

We mark this occasion at the beginning of February because with a gun death rate 10 times greater than other developed nations, more Americans have already been killed with guns in 2020 than are killed in the entire year in our peer countries. We are a Nation suffering an epidemic of gun violence.

Each year, more than 36,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence, and an additional 100,000 are injured by firearms.

The trauma caused by this violence is not limited to the victims. Losing a loved one to gun violence is a wound that never heals.

If this were any other epidemic destroying lives on such a great scale, we would have long ago taken action.

To be fair, in this House, we did act. Nearly a year ago, we passed bipartisan background check legislation, H.R. 8, to close loopholes that allow gun sales to go unchecked. In the Senate, Leader McConnell is blocking a vote and choosing obstruction over saving lives.

Enough is enough. For all the survivors of gun violence, this week, we demand action.

CHILDREN SHOULD GROW UP WITHOUT FEAR OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor survivors during National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Tragically, this week, sisters Deja and Abbaney Matts of Garland were killed, and Abbaney's toddler was injured at a shooting at Texas A&M-Commerce University. The shooter was believed to be her ex-boyfriend, who was recently charged with aggravated assault for attacking Abbaney.

I send my deepest condolences to the Matts family.

To honor the Matts and to underscore the need for action, I want to share a letter 6-year-old Cal Bingham of Rowlett sent me after the mass shootings in El Paso at Midland. He wrote: "When kids get shot, that's less friends to play with. When I grow up, I don't want to hear about anymore on the news about people being killed with guns. What are you going to do to help make us safer?"

I want my son, Jordan, and kids like Cal to grow up without fear of gun violence. I call on the Senate to act and pass the bipartisan bills that we have passed in this House, including background checks and the Violence Against Women Act. Our children are watching.

SUPPORTING FEDERAL PRIVACY LEGISLATION

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Federal privacy legislation.

With every new app that is downloaded or website that is used, people run the risk of turning over their most sensitive personal data without even knowing it.

Right now, consumers are left with virtually no rights or protections. We have seen the damage done by the Facebook Cambridge Analytica scandal, yet there has been zero action from Congress. This is unacceptable.

I believe we can and must have a national data privacy law that gives consumers control over their data and that sets fair rules of the road for businesses to comply.

I introduced H.R. 1013, the Information Privacy and Personal Data Protection Act, which would address both. I urge my colleagues to take up this issue to make it a priority and work with me in moving this legislation forward.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

When gun violence occurs in a community, lives are too often lost, but for survivors, the neighborhoods they know and love are never the same.

This is especially true when gun violence impacts our young people. Despite the terrible loss of so many young lives in my district last year, I see hope in the messages from their peers.

I recently heard from some high school students who shared their stories and support for a bill I introduced with Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, H.R. 3435, the Local Public Health and Safety Act, to empower local communities to address gun violence.

These students believe we can make changes to heal our communities and prevent future tragedies. I agree and join them in a renewed call to action on behalf of survivors everywhere.

HONORING COURAGEOUS SURVIVORS OF GUN VIOLENCE WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR CHANGE

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

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, this is National Gun Violence Survivors Week, and I rise today to honor the many courageous survivors of gun violence across our country who are fighting for change.

Over 70 percent of the American people, including a majority of gun owners, support universal background