

as Fortney, Hannah, and Andrew; his eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and the entire Stark family that so many mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members and guests in the gallery to rise for a moment of silence.

#### NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

At a field hearing in my district last November, we heard from Pastor Brenda Mitchell, who lost both her brother and a son to gun violence. After her son's death, Pastor Mitchell experienced hypertension, and the trauma forced her to leave a successful career behind.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, which tracks gun violence statistics, there have been 862 deaths in my district since 2013, 862 families who have experienced the trauma of losing a loved one to gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to stand up to the empty minds, the empty hearts, and the empty suits of the gun lobby and send H.R. 8 to the President's desk.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY RICHARD WHITTEN

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Liberty County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Whitten, who succumbed to complications of a gunshot wound.

On May 29, 2019, Deputy Whitten was off duty when he heard a "shots fired" call over the dispatch. Responding without hesitation, he drove to the scene. After a brief pursuit, Deputy Whitten was shot in the neck by the murder suspect, paralyzing him instantly.

After visiting with him and his wife, Kami, in the hospital last July, he told me that he would do it all over again to protect his community and his citizens.

On February 3, 2020, Deputy Whitten suffered a complication while undergoing physical therapy and passed away. He served with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office for 4 years, and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank a real hero, Deputy Richard Whitten, for his faithful service.

Thank you.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN FORTNEY "PETE" STARK

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, we lost a devoted public servant with the recent passing of our dear friend, Representative Pete Stark.

As a student at Mills College during the early 1970s, I was president of the Black Student Union, and Pete helped me with many of my organizing efforts. He was also the very first Member of Congress I voted for.

Pete served for 40 years as a passionate and courageous public servant who made it his goal to advocate for those most in need.

Through working alongside him in Congress, I came to admire his willingness to speak out for what he believed to be right, even when it meant challenging those in power.

Pete made a difference in the lives of millions of people across the country. His substantial and lasting influence on health policy reflected his deeply held values of compassionate legislating and courageous advocacy.

Pete believed it was his role to fight for the people's interests, not for special interests. He saw his role as one of advocacy for the underserved people of his district and throughout the country.

Pete never failed to speak up when it came time to champion a more compassionate approach to governance. He truly spoke truth to power.

My thoughts and prayers are with Pete's wife, Deborah, his children, his family, and his loved ones.

May we carry his baton forward in our work for a more just world, a more compassionate world, and may he rest in peace.

#### RECOGNIZING KEVIN "CATFISH" JACKSON

(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 recognize Mr. Kevin "Catfish" Jackson, who was honored at this year's Opportunity Award Gala at the Savannah Technical College Foundation for his business acumen, vision, and commitment to developing the next generation of Georgia's leaders. This award is much deserved for all the hard work and dedication that Mr. Jackson has poured into the Savannah business community.

He is the founder and CEO of EnviroVac Holdings, which employs over 1,000 people, and the chairman of the Savannah Economic Development Authority. He was appointed by the Governor to serve on the board of the Georgia Ports Authority, and he has continued to volunteer with numerous charitable organizations around town.

This is now the third major award he has won in Savannah for his accomplishments. He won Entrepreneur of the Year awards in both 2015 and 2018.

I am so proud that the Savannah Technical College Foundation chose Catfish for this year's honor.

Congratulations, Catfish. Keep up the great work.

#### AMERICAN WORKERS ARE THE LIVING FABRIC AND BACKBONE OF OUR COUNTRY AND ECONOMY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today's passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act is a major victory for the American worker.

Nationwide, millions of Americans work full-time jobs yet earn unsustainable wages and little to no benefits. Too many people work multiple jobs yet struggle to make ends meet while they watch the stock market and their executives, who, together, make millions upon millions.

But by restoring balance to the gutted National Labor Relations Act, the PRO Act will restore the collective voice and dignity of American workers from all backgrounds, no matter the color of their collar.

The PRO Act includes meaningful, enforceable penalties for union-busting companies and executives. It restores workers' ability to stand together by weakening States' antilabor right-to-work laws and closes loopholes that corporations use to exploit workers. Most importantly, it strengthens workers' right to free and fair union elections and requires corporations to respect the results.

American workers are the living fabric and backbone of our country and economy and the future of our prosperity. They deserve the power to stand together and advocate for themselves. The PRO Act is the pathway to that power.

#### TIME TO GET BACK TO ISSUES THAT MATTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my colleagues in both Chambers of Congress.

Yesterday, we saw the absolute acquittal in the Senate of President Donald Trump after 3 years of baseless accusations, harassment, and a prolonged witch hunt known as the impeachment process.

Without a doubt, the saddest part of this 130-day fiasco that cost taxpayers an estimated \$3 million and yielded zero direct evidence implicating the President has been the colossal waste of time and resources.

The question we must ask ourselves now is this: How many lives could we have bettered during all of this?

The answer is: Countless.

It is time to get back to the issues that matter to the American people. Let's find common ground and do something.

Today, I stand here just feet away from where President Trump stood on Tuesday and called for unity in this body.

As the President said that night, the only victories that matter in Washington are those that deliver for the American people, and I stand ready to work across the aisle.

Will you join me?

The American people are watching.

### THREE IMPORTANT BILLS

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support of three important bills that were considered by the House on Wednesday: H.R. 4044, the Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act; H.R. 4031, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act; and H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act.

Regrettably, I was unable to cast my votes for this legislation, but had I been able to, I would have voted to pass all three.

I had the pleasure to support Mr. MALINOWSKI's and Mr. JOYCE's bills in the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup and would have gladly voted for them on the House floor as well.

I am particularly disappointed to have missed the vote on the USPS Fairness Act, offered by Chairman DEFAZIO, which I cosponsored. Importantly, it would repeal the 2006 mandate that the U.S. Postal Service prefund future retiree health benefits.

My mom has had a long civil service career at the U.S. Post Office, and so the issue really hits home for me.

No other industry is so unfairly burdened with prefunding benefits in this way, and this bill would help stem the financial losses faced by the USPS. What is more, it would have no effect on the Federal budget.

This legislation is not the end of the discussion for how we protect this vital industry and its workers; it is merely the beginning.

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### NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, this morning, my father, my son, my father-in-law, and I attended the National Prayer Breakfast, and joined thousands of other men and women to pray for our country and our President.

This was one of the most humbling experiences of my life and will remain one of the greatest honors that has come with the position of my office.

Prayer is an important part of my Christian faith. It is an act that people

of faith value immensely, and every person should be able to pray, free from persecution, in any institution of the United States.

Additionally, our children should never feel ostracized for displaying their faith and expressing their religious beliefs in our schools across our Nation. It is more important than ever to defend our First Amendment rights and to support efforts made by our President and his administration, and Members of Congress should uphold these values and protect prayer.

### NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Trump delivered his State of the Union address in this very Chamber. At one point, he praised the Second Amendment and gun rights, but neglected to even mention the 100 Americans who are killed with guns every day. That number is only part of it.

This week is National Gun Violence Survivors Week and their stories fill out the picture of the reality of guns in America. Over half of adult Americans have or know someone who has experienced gun violence, and about 3 million children experience gun violence every year.

That doesn't even include the millions more students who go to school afraid that they could be the victim of a mass shooting, all because the NRA and the Republican lawmakers they fund refuse to even allow the most commonsense gun legislation, like H.R. 8.

This legislation would ensure that no one could buy a gun without a background check, and a bipartisan majority of Americans agree.

It is time to end the NRA stranglehold, and end gun violence.

### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RATIFICATION OF 19TH AMENDMENT IN NEW JERSEY

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, February 9, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in New Jersey.

The 19th Amendment was introduced to Congress in 1878. The amendment reads: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

It was not passed by Congress until the House of Representatives passed it in May of 1919 and the Senate passed it in June of 1919. It was then sent to the States for ratification, with New Jersey being the 29th of the 36 States.

I would like to honor the tireless efforts of advocates over history, pioneer's like New Jersey's own, Dr. Alice Paul, who worked for years to get women the right to vote. Her persistence and the persistence of thousands of women before and after her is a true example of how the dedication of these women changed our country and the world for the better. They are true American heroes.

### PASS GUN SAFETY BILLS

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, in 1960 my mother's life changed dramatically forever. That was the year her father was murdered through an act of gun violence. She was just 10 years old and my grandmother became a widow with six children left to raise on her own.

This week marks National Gun Violence Survivors Week, where we listen to stories like my mom's and other survivors of gun violence through the country.

But here in Congress, we need to do more than just listen to these stories. We need to act. Last year, the House passed commonsense, bipartisan gun safety legislation, H.R. 8, to expand background checks. This measure is something over 90 percent of the American public wants.

Unfortunately, it has been sitting in the Senate for almost a year and that is unacceptable. Survivors of gun violence, victims of gun violence, and the American people deserve a Congress who will act and pass these gun safety bills. Enough is enough.

### NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn observance of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Colorado is home, and I am proud to represent the communities of Colorado's Sixth Congressional District, communities that have seen the horrors of gun violence firsthand.

Too many of my constituents bear the scars of gun violence long after their wounds have healed. Some never heal. In honor of their pain, their courage, and their advocacy, we must call on the Senate to pass the commonsense reforms that have already been approved in the House.

We must act now for Julie from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, who was shot when she was 13. Julie was left paralyzed from the chest down, requiring her to walk with canes and braces for the rest of her life. My heart is with Julie for having the courage to speak out in support of commonsense reforms.