

communism, and we are forever grateful for their service.

This past weekend, I joined the Corporal Allan Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association and local members of the Korean-American community to honor them.

□ 1045

Last year, I also honored the life and legacy of Private First Class Raymond Andrew Smith as his remains returned to Brooklyn 71 years after he was reported missing in action.

While the return of Raymond's remains is something to be celebrated, our Nation must not forget that more than 81,600 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, the Gulf war, and other conflicts.

On Monday, the anniversary of D-day, I was honored to receive a POW/MIA Chair of Honor from our local Rolling Thunder chapter to display in my office as a permanent tribute to the brave men and women who honorably served our Nation overseas, but sadly never made it home.

I urge my colleagues to consider doing the same because we all must do more as a grateful Nation to raise attention to this issue and diligently work to return all prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action back to our homeland.

PRIORITIZING THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today almost exactly 6 months after the shooting at Oxford High School in Oxford, Michigan, in my district. I represent Michigan's Eighth District, which includes Ingham County, Livingston County, and north Oakland County. Over the past couple of weeks, I have been in meetings with survivors and local officials. There are few issues that link our urban areas to our suburban areas to our rural areas more than gun violence.

I also represent the east side of Lansing, Michigan, where, just in the past week, we have had gun violence between three young people. And I also represent Oxford, where 6 months ago we had the school shooting, the most recent school shooting before Uvalde, Texas.

I happened to be scheduled to speak at the Oxford Virtual Academy graduation, in-person graduation, the day after the Uvalde shooting. I spent the day in Oxford, as I have been doing about every month, and you could hear the pain that people felt in being re-traumatized by watching what was going on in Uvalde.

The students who I was speaking to were a group of students who chose to join school virtually, many of them in the aftermath of the shooting. I had been with the Superintendent of Oxford

Schools earlier in the day. He was one of the very first people on the scene helping to provide first aid to the young people that we lost. We talked about the trauma and retrauma that sets in in communities where gun violence happens again and again.

I may have a different angle on this issue than most. Guns and firearms are part of our culture in the State of Michigan. I grew up with guns. I remember very distinctly getting a four-wheeler along with my brother when I was 11, and my dad installing the gun racks when I was 12 so that my brother and I could go out shooting during the day.

I am a CIA officer who was trained on a Glock and an M4 semiautomatic for my three tours in Iraq alongside the military. My husband is a career Army officer and carried a weapon every day he was deployed. It is just something that is normal among the 99 percent of responsible gun owners in the State of Michigan.

It is because of that background that I fundamentally reject this idea that either you care about gun ownership, or you care about school safety. That is a fundamentally false choice.

In Michigan, as I said, we have responsible gun owners everywhere. Since the shooting, I have heard from more of them in the past 2 weeks than I have in the previous 4 years; active hunters and sportsmen who are strongly in favor of things like commonsense background checks so that mentally ill people don't get their hands on weapons, and certainly things like safe storage of weapons so that a child can't get ahold of a parent's weapon and use it to kill their peers.

I have a bill that is going in this package today in the House. Safe Guns, Safe Kids Act is the name of it. It is part of protecting our kids in a serious, commonsense way. All it says is that if you are an adult and you have a firearm in the house, and you also have children, you have to take reasonable steps to secure that weapon, and if the child gets ahold of that weapon and uses it to commit a crime, like mass murder, you can be criminally liable for that crime.

The bill doesn't impact your decision to buy a gun. Instead, it asks that you act responsibly when you have it. This is not controversial. It is not partisan. It is basic common sense and what most people do anyway, just like my dad. Personal responsibility is at the heart of what it means to be an American, and gun owners have a critical role to play in making sure we can protect our communities.

While the provisions that the House will approve today are commonsense measures, I have no illusion on how partisan this is going to be. I know how much the gun lobby has sway with my peers, and I know that straight-up, selfish interest in being reelected is guiding my colleagues in this Chamber. But I encourage my friends on both sides of the aisle to prioritize public

health and public safety over political concerns.

Anything that we pass here in the House will need support in the Senate to become law, so we want more of our Republican colleagues to join with us. We want more brave individuals to cross the aisle and say: I am going to do something about the thing that is now the number one killer of young people in America. It is gun violence. It is not car accidents. It is not drug overdoses, and it is not cancer. It is gun violence.

To my friends who are considering how to vote on some of the provisions today, I encourage you to make a choice. Do you care about dealing with the leading cause of death of young people or not? I urge you to join us.

WE NEED RELIEF

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, when President Biden took office, the price of a gallon of gas stood at \$2.39 a gallon. Today, the national average is more than double, clocking in at \$4.96 per gallon.

Since the beginning of the travel season, gas prices have reached a new record high every single day. The situation in my home State of Michigan is even more dire and unaffordable. In the past week, gas prices spiked more in Michigan, the motor capital of the world, than any other State. Our State average has skyrocketed up to \$5.21.

In Jackson, in my district, gas prices rose 20 cents overnight last week. In Lenawee County, my home county, they rose at an even quicker rate to \$5.29, when I drove to the airport yesterday morning. Michigan families are struggling to pay these historic prices at the pump.

Robert from Tecumseh, Michigan, told me that he along with many other seniors on a fixed income are simply unable to use their cars because of the price of gas.

Another constituent wrote to me that someone drilled a hole in their truck's gas tank and stole their gas.

This is the environment that President Biden's antienergy policies have created. Since day one, the Biden administration has been hostile to American energy. They canceled the Keystone XL pipeline. They halted oil and gas leases on Federal lands. They recklessly depleted our strategic reserves, which is now at its lowest level since 1987. They have done everything possible to discourage investment in domestic production.

At the same time, the administration continues to beg Saudi Arabia and other foreign countries to boost their oil supply. It simply makes no sense.

In Congress, just one side—House Republicans—has been proposing solutions. We should pass the American Energy Independence from Russia Act to unleash our domestic production capability.

We should pass the Strategic Production Response Act to transition supply concerns from stopgap measures to permanent production solutions.

And we should pass the PIPES Act, which I introduced, to prevent a sitting President from unilaterally attacking existing domestic energy infrastructure.

Let's not forget: America was energy independent just 2 short years ago. There is a path to regaining that independence and bringing down prices at the pump if President Biden will reverse course and flip the switch on American energy.

My constituents cannot afford \$5-plus per gallon of gas. They need relief. We need relief. America needs relief, and fast.

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, gun violence, as we know, is plaguing our Nation. In 2022, this year, there have already been 200 mass shootings in the United States. Think about that. It is absolutely horrific.

We ask ourselves, when is enough enough?

Our constituents across the country ask us, how many more innocent people must die before any reasonable, commonsense gun reform legislation can pass and add more protection for the American public?

Let's pass the Protecting Our Kids Act, which raises the purchasing age for semiautomatic weapons from 18 to 21, a commonsense idea. Let's also deal with the subject of ghost gun purchases and background checks. Again, commonsense ideas, and cracks down on gun trafficking and straw purchases.

If the combination of the Protecting Our Kids Act is something that you might find objectionable in some instance, we have individual pieces of legislation, resources for victims of gun violence, bipartisan background checks, assault weapons ban, legislation that would also go further to provide protection in condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, and dealing with hate, bigotry, and violence against Asian-American and Pacific-Islander communities.

We also have legislation that would designate June 4th National Gun Violence Awareness Day. There is legislation that deals with disarming of hate, and to try to provide extreme risk protection for Federal firearms sales to include those who are subject to extreme risk protection that we know red-flag legislation would help protect us against.

So, there are a lot of things we can do. Will we totally eliminate the threats to the public? Of course not.

But there are commonsense ideas we can do to improve and increase safety for our schools, for our churches, and for people who are just going to shop

for groceries one afternoon. These are things we can do, and we should do.

As chair of the Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus, I am advocating for resources for survivors of gun violence to cope with their trauma, whether it be in Sacramento or Fresno or anywhere else around this country.

I support the Second Amendment for responsible gun ownership. Let that be clear. But America deserves better, and I call on all House Members to join me in this effort. Let's put partisanship aside and take action to address the gun epidemic once and for all.

Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

CELEBRATING DIA DE PORTUGAL

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today also to celebrate Dia de Portugal, which is a significant holiday for Portuguese people all over the world.

My grandparents came to the United States from the Azore Islands in the late 19th century and the turn of the 20th century, 1897 to 1904. Illiterate, non-English speaking, like immigrants past and immigrants present, coming to America to have a better life for themselves. But they never, ever left their pride of their home country, Portugal, or their sense of culture, which lives in me today.

Portugal is one of America's longest and strongest allies, as it was the first to recognize the United States as an independent Nation after the Revolutionary War.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the AMIGOS Act, introduced by our colleague and Congressman DAVID CICILLINE. It would create more American jobs and increase investment in the United States by strengthening our bonds with Portugal. As the co-chair of the Portuguese Caucus, I think it is important that we continue to build on this relationship and the trade that already exists today.

I urge the Senate to pass this bipartisan legislation and, again, we will continue to work with other colleagues of ours who are part of our Portuguese-American Caucus to continue to advocate for mutual interests, not only for Portugal but for the United States and the Portuguese-American community.

"Happy Portugal Day." "Feliz Dia de Portugal."

Let us celebrate and let us remember that America is a stronger country because of our welcoming of immigrants past and present, and this is a part of that recognition.

□ 1100

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES NUMBER 10: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill

in 2023, I rise today to deliver the tenth installment of my farm bill impact series where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserve this Congress' awareness and support.

Rural Development programs exist within the farm bill because the people of rural America, many of whom work to feed, fuel, and clothe us all, must remain connected to their families, local communities, and the world to do their jobs.

Communities are made up of families, and families in rural areas need well-built affordable housing in order to thrive. USDA Rural Development's Single Family Housing Programs enable families and individuals to buy, build, or repair affordable homes located in rural America. Through these programs, qualifying individuals can finance a new home with no money down or get financial assistance to repair their wells, hookups to rural water, septic, plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems, insulation, and storm shelters or safe rooms.

USDA Rural Development is also committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America, and every strong community needs strong local businesses. The Business and Industry Loan Guarantee program improves the economic health of rural communities by increasing access to business capital through loan guarantees, as well as enabling commercial lenders to provide affordable financing to rural businesses.

In Healy, Kansas, the Sharp Brothers Seed Company has sold native grass seeds since 1958. They needed additional working capital to build up their inventory for a Conservation Reserve Program enrollment, so they used the USDA Rural Development Business and Industry program to secure a \$5 million guaranteed loan for additional working capital. This program helped make their operation stronger than ever before, which is good for rural Kansas.

Finally, strengthening rural broadband will help ensure that rural Americans, agricultural producers included, can keep pace with an increasingly tech-driven society and international marketplace. I believe that taxpayer dollars must be spent judiciously on existing broadband programs, and the goals set by the USDA and the FCC must be realistic.

Last summer, the House Agriculture Committee advanced the Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act out of committee, which authorizes \$43 billion toward critical infrastructure in rural communities. I also joined several of my House Republican colleagues and introduced legislation that would leverage the ReConnect program with some of the 2018 rural broadband investments in rural areas with little or no internet access.

The ReConnect program is an example of a successful public-private partnership. Its matching grants help cover the cost of cable, implementation, and installment for broadband in rural