

HIGH HOPES FOR THE PHILLIES

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, spring has sprung, and opening day is on the sprung. Spring is meant for new beginnings.

What a run our Phillies had last season. This year, Phillies fans come to this season with, as the great Harry Kalas sings to us after every home win, "High Hopes" for our Fightin' Phils.

Madam Speaker, we have high hopes for Trea Turner, J.T. Realmuto, Aaron Nola, Zack Wheeler, Kyle Schwarber, and our world-class players being led to glory by our manager, Philly Rob; and high hopes for the return of Bryce Harper and the recovery of Rhys Hoskins from his devastating ACL injury. We wish him a full recovery.

In my hometown of Glenside, we have high hopes for our two Glenside boys, Mike and Sammy Siani. Mike was called up to the majors last season with the Cincinnati Reds, and Sammy is well on his way.

Good luck to the Glenside Siani men, and watch out for the Fightin' Phils this season. Let's play ball.

COVENANT SCHOOL SHOOTING

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, here we are again, talking about another school shooting.

When will enough be enough in this country?

How is it that we allow our schoolchildren to go to school each day with the uncertainty of their own safety?

How do we allow parents to drop children off and not be able sometimes to pick them up at the end of the school day?

At Covenant School on Monday, in Nashville, three 9-year-old babies were slaughtered and three of their teachers, or adults, were taken, as well.

□ 1045

It is a shameful number. We now in this country have had 15 mass shootings at schools. When will enough be enough?

I hear an appalling silence from the majority party in this House—an appalling silence. Call for the safety of every one of our citizens. Call for the safety of every one of our children as they go to school, that they can come home safely and not be terrorized by what is going on.

Here we are the greatest Nation on the planet, and we can't keep our children safe. Let's close the background check loophole. Let's keep guns out of the hands of violent people. Let's get weapons of war out of the hands of civilians, off our streets, and out of our schools. We are failing our children and our grandchildren—this greatest Nation on the planet.

Please stop the appalling silence. Partner with us to end gun violence in this country and to end this shameful nightmare.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF U.S. AIR FORCE FIRST LIEUTENANT THEODORE "TED" COHEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Vietnam Veterans Day to first and foremost thank the Vietnam veterans from my district and around the country who served, but also for a very special person, First Lieutenant Theodore "Ted" Cohen, a Staten Island resident who sadly passed away this past Saturday.

Ted was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Brooklyn College where he was a member of the ROTC. Not long after the start of the Vietnam war, he served his first tour in Spain with the Strategic Air Command before flying on 26 close air support missions in Vietnam.

Upon his return to the States, Ted spent his nights working with the Daily News before spending 25 years working for Avon in international marketing. When Ted's wife fell ill, he retired early. He decided to care for her and ensure that their last 9 years together were spent traveling the world.

After his wife passed away, his passion for caring for others, especially our veterans, became his mission. Ted served as a member of the United States Island Veterans Organization, the Air Force Association, and The American Legion. He would bring food to homebound servicemen and -women. He would provide rides to and from their appointments at the VA if they were unable to drive themselves. He even went to help them complete their paperwork, which we know can sometimes be cumbersome.

Not only was Ted a constituent and a champion for our Nation's veterans, but he was a dear friend to my office, having been a vocal member of our monthly veterans' roundtable. He always contributed greatly. He had many recommendations. We worked together to improve VA access and care.

He also served on our academy nomination board for the past several years where he provided invaluable assistance and advice to our youth throughout the entire academy nominations process, and he helped us select the next generation of servicemembers.

Our office, our local veterans, and our entire community will sincerely miss Ted and his invaluable service. His willingness to give back was so appreciated by all.

Ted exemplified the very best of what it means to be an American, to put your country, to put your community, and to put others first. He answered every call to serve with honor, integrity, and distinction. We owe him an immeasurable debt of gratitude, not only for his service to our country, but for his lifelong service to our community.

Please join me in extending condolences to his family. I thank Ted for his service.

AMERICAN GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today heartbroken by perpetual tragedy and outraged by perpetual inaction.

On Monday, a school shooting in Nashville left three 9-year-old students and three adults dead. The next day, when asked about solutions to the American gun violence epidemic, the majority leader of the House of Representatives offered his solution: prayers.

Let's be clear, thoughts and prayers don't save a single solitary life. Yet, after more than 130 mass shootings in less than 3 months, the Republican Party has still chosen to allow our children to be murdered in their classrooms.

To be clear, this is a choice. After every mass shooting, Republicans choose to offer empty thoughts and prayers instead of commonsense solutions, and then they turn around and cash their NRA checks.

I have spent my entire career in public service and every Sunday in church. I will never understand how a human being, let alone one elected to serve others, would willingly endanger the lives of their children for a little bit of money. Frankly, it makes me sick to my stomach.

Every American—Republican, Democrat, and Independent—wants to live in a country where they don't have to fear that dropping off their child at the bus stop may be the last time they see them alive.

Too many of us, however, accept this dystopian reality. The cycle of murder, devastation, and inaction has become so commonplace that most mass shootings don't even make the headlines. Outside of war zones, no country on Earth so consistently chooses to accept so much death and terror.

I certainly choose not to accept it. I choose to take necessary action to curb the scourge of gun violence in our country. I choose to fight for universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, and whatever it takes to protect our communities.

I dream of a safer America. I choose to keep fighting until it is no longer just a dream. Words mean nothing. Action is what we need.

CELEBRATING THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF AMITY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 190th anniversary

of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, the first treaty between the United States and Thailand.

In fact, the historic agreement is distinguished as the first treaty between the United States and any Asian country.

Since its establishment, the relationship and cooperation between our two nations has thrived, providing benefits to both of our economies and national security.

That is why earlier this month I introduced the bipartisan resolution reaffirming our gratitude for our partnership and our continued commitment to building our friendship.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the historic treaty of 1833, let us also reaffirm our efforts to strengthen our strategic partnerships, promote democracy, and secure our interests in Asia and around the world.

JUSTICE FOR BLACK FARMERS

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, the history of farming and agriculture in the United States is unquestionably one-sided. Black farmers have lost over \$300 million worth of farmland in the last century due to a history of widespread discrimination, which has further exacerbated the wealth gap in America.

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, there are 3,222 Black farmers in my home State of Louisiana. Nationally, Black farmers only represent 1.4 percent of more than 3 million farmers. Since the 1920s, the number of Black farmers has dropped from nearly a million to roughly around 50,000. Today, they own just around half of a percent of our farmland.

The Justice for Black Farmers Act confronts our history and will establish a brighter future for the underserved by reforming the USDA, providing debt relief, and creating a land grant program to encourage new generations of Black farmers. This bill seeks to correct persistent injustices and restore the land base that Black farmers have lost unjustly.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative ADAMS and Senator BOOKER for their leadership on this issue.

MASS SHOOTINGS IN AMERICA

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, a heavy heart because our country consistently turns a cheek, turns and looks away at the violence, the mass shootings that seem to be reported every day in the news.

It is simply not enough for my colleagues to come to the floor and offer condolences and well-wishing and prayer. While all those things are wonderful, in 2023 the people deserve action.

Our young people that are visiting with us deserve to be in a classroom that is safe. Our friends who worship in

churches and synagogues deserve to be able to worship in peace. People who walk their dogs or jog along the park should be able to do so without fear of a mass shooting. People should be able to go to a concert or a party and enjoy relative safety.

In this month alone: March 27, Tennessee, mass shooting; March 27, Wisconsin, mass shooting; March 26, Pennsylvania, mass shooting; March 26, Minnesota, mass shooting; March 26, Arkansas, mass shooting; March 26, Louisiana, mass shooting; March 25, Louisiana, mass shooting; March 25, New York, mass shooting; March 25, North Carolina, mass shooting; March 25, Illinois, mass shooting; March 24, Louisiana, mass shooting; March 23, Maryland, mass shooting; March 21, New Jersey, mass shooting; March 21, South Carolina, mass shooting; March 20, Wisconsin, mass shooting; March 18, Ohio, mass shooting; March 18, Illinois, mass shooting; March 18, Texas, mass shooting; March 15, Oregon, mass shooting; March 14, Alabama, mass shooting; March 13, Texas, mass shooting; March 12, Texas, mass shooting; March 11, New York, mass shooting; March 11, Washington, mass shooting; and March 10, Florida, mass shooting.

That is just this month alone. Let that sink in. At what point do we put people over profit? At what point do we challenge the gun makers to say: Listen, we are not talking about taking away your constitutional right to bear arms. We are talking about sensible gun control that will save these young people that are visiting us today, that will save these visitors that come to see their government at work.

This is not Republican or Democrat. This is about the survival of our communities. This is about the survival of our young people. This is about providing resources to make sure our communities are safe. Stop it. Stop protecting NRA and their profits and start protecting our children and their lives.

HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today on this important day to commemorate those who served in Vietnam. I want to call attention to one servicemember, Colonel Marshall McRee, who passed from us just 4 years ago.

Colonel McRee started his life in North Carolina poor. He chose a college because they offered a football scholarship and clothing that he could not afford.

President Kennedy called him up to rush to Florida as a young officer in the wake of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Colonel McRee went on to serve for 30 years. He did two tours in Vietnam. In early 1965, he served first as an adviser but then in the fierceness of battles in

1967 and 1968, in the Battle of Caisson, supporting the Marine Corps from his artillery position, supporting marines on long-range patrols during the day, and defending his perimeter all night.

Marshall McRee earned three Bronze Stars with a V for valor for his service to our country. He returned to a Nation that was ungrateful, and he returned to a Nation that spit upon him when he returned.

□ 1100

There are those in our highest levels of government today who are among those who protested against our veterans before, more recently, it became popular to support the veterans.

I want to add that Marshall McRee did not stand alone. His wife of over 50 years, Patricia McRee, was part of the fabric of the Army community that when the telegrams would bring news of loss, she was part of the fabric of women who came and supported young women who were now widows with children who were now fatherless. That was the Army and the fabric that they provided.

I am proud to talk about Colonel and Mrs. McRee because they have a beautiful daughter who happens to be my wife. I am very proud to be a part of their family, and I am proud to stand up and talk about the Vietnam veterans who deserve our respect.

REDUCING ENERGY PRICES

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1 to lower energy costs for New York's 27th Congressional District.

As an expert in energy and a nuclear submarine officer in the Navy, I understand firsthand the importance of reliable energy for American families, businesses, and national security.

I stand here in support of H.R. 1 for the men and women of New York's 22nd District.

A constituent of mine, Steve Turner, shown right here behind me, is a Marine Corps veteran with cancer who is unable to pay his electric bills. Five days a week of treatment and soaring energy prices have brought this hero to his breaking point.

This is unacceptable. I can't cure Steve's cancer, but I will be damned if I let Steve continue to suffer the indignity of soaring energy costs taking food off his table.

H.R. 1 takes critical steps to promote American energy independence and will lower costs for people like Steve and the rest of central New York and the Mohawk Valley.

Burdensome regulations and radical policies are hurting working and middle-class Americans through no fault of their own—taking their jobs and putting our country last. Let's streamline the process by reinvigorating oil and natural gas production, renewables, and nuclear energy dominance. The Lower Energy Costs Act is a common-sense solution to our Nation's energy challenges.

Madam Speaker, Steve and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.