

help Members of Congress understand the ever-expanding and heartbreaking toll that gun violence is taking on children and our communities every day.

They came to D.C. to beg lawmakers, not for thoughts and prayers, but to pass commonsense gun safety laws that will help them stop this epidemic.

We now know that firearm injuries are the leading cause of death for children and teens, but they see it firsthand.

The stories these doctors shared of the injuries and death that they have to deal with on a daily basis were shocking, but what really struck me was the raw pain in their faces and in their voices as they shared those stories.

Think about it. These doctors have dedicated their lives to caring for children, and now they are reeling from the trauma of having to face day in and day out the toll that our Nation's gun violence is taking on those children, knowing that the lion's share of this pain and death is preventable if lawmakers only had the courage to act.

The stories these children's doctors told broke my heart. Today, I share their words with you. One said: "As a primary care pediatrician in Philadelphia, my heart stops every time I see on the news that a young person has been shot and killed. I fear they are my patient. I am sick that these young people that I watch growing up are being murdered on the streets by gangs. Something must change."

□ 1015

Another said: "I am haunted by the image of a child's shoe. My patient, a young boy with autism, was at a community July Fourth celebration with his family when they heard shots. The family ran, and in the chaos that ensued, his shoe fell off and was lost. For weeks after the shooting, this child didn't have the words to describe what he was feeling, but he kept asking: 'Where is my shoe?' He was clearly impacted by the events and was having trouble sleeping. Although this child and his family were physically unharmed, the question, 'Where is my shoe?' is evidence of a child, family, and community traumatized yet again by gun violence."

Another is a neonatologist, a baby doctor. She said: "You might think I would never see my patients be impacted by gun violence, but sadly, I have seen too many families impacted by it. Mothers tell me about close calls they had with gun-related violence. After all, pregnant and postpartum women are more, not less, likely to experience abuse and assault. I have had patients who were born early, delivered frantically in an attempt to save their lives and those of their shot mothers. Patients have fathers, siblings, aunts, uncles, and grandparents who are disabled or dead because they were shot. I should not see this so often, babies whose lives start shrouded in trauma because we do not have background checks and red flag policies."

Another said: "As a pediatric emergency physician, I face the effects of gun violence daily. I tell devastated parents that their toddler has been fatally shot by a sibling playing with a handgun. I scramble to rapidly transfuse blood into children caught in the crossfire of gang violence. I exit trauma bays covered in the brain matter of teenagers who have made the tragically final decision to end their lives with a gun. And if I am lucky, I find a moment to grieve these losses before moving on to the next patient in need of my care, a child struggling with depression after losing a family member to gun violence. This is my reality. It is heartbreaking, and it must stop."

Finally, one said: "I am also a mother, a mother who spends sleepless nights googling bulletproof backpacks every time an AR-15 has turned other mothers' children into sitting ducks at their schools. I should not have to worry that someone with a mental health disorder can go to a store, buy a weapon of mass destruction, and, that same day, shoot my little boys as they sit sounding out letters. But because of our laws, that dull, familiar fear rears its head often when I drop them off at school. It doesn't have to be this way."

She is right. They are right. It doesn't have to be this way. It must stop. We don't have to live this way.

There are laws that could help turn the tide, and this shouldn't be a partisan issue. Children are being shot every day regardless of their family's party affiliation.

Mr. Speaker, our communities are begging the Republican majority to come to the table and find common ground to pass comprehensive, commonsense, and constitutional legislation that will end this epidemic.

The American people overwhelmingly support background checks, safe storage, red flag laws, and limiting access to assault-style weapons because they understand the Second Amendment is not a suicide pact.

GUAM THANKFUL FOR SUPER TYPHOON MAWAR HEROES

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, as Guam continues to recover from the wrath of Super Typhoon Mawar, I want to take this time to thank the many selfless heroes who worked and continue to work endless hours to ensure that our community reaches normalcy, or at least some degree of it:

The crews from the Guam Power Authority and the Guam Waterworks Authority continue to work till the wee hours of the morning to ensure that power and water are restored in homes and businesses, as these represent the first step toward normalcy;

The men and women from the Department of Public Works, along with the Guam National Guard and even the Hawaii National Guard, who have and

continue to remove debris throughout the island;

Our hardworking men and women in healthcare, many of whom worked bravely throughout the storm and who had to pull various roles, inclusive of ensuring that the floors didn't get flooded in the rooms of their patients, as the storm extended its stay in Guam;

Our brave men and women in public safety, who, just as many of our healthcare workers, braved and worked throughout the storm and today continue to ensure that the many dark streets and neighborhoods are well patrolled from the "sakis";

Our Federal partners from FEMA, SBA, HHS, Army Corps of Engineers, and the list goes on and on, many who got to the island prior to Mawar, and those who came in after, who are fulfilling many roles, inclusive of ensuring that the basic necessities, such as water, MREs, generators, cots, tents, and so much more get to the community and, of course, assisting the island residents in applying for the many Federal benefit programs available;

The mayors and the vice mayors of our 19 municipalities and their staffs, who I thank for their diligence, hard work, patience, and, most especially, their heart in not only caring for their constituents but also fighting for them;

Our brothers and sisters from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, including Governor Arnold Palacios, Lieutenant Governor David Apatang, and Congressman Kilili Sablan, for opening your hearts and helping the people of Guam. We are, indeed, One Mariana Islands Strong;

To our educators and the staff at Guam Agriculture, Port Authority of Guam, Guam Airport Authority, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, Guam Fire Department, the EMTs, and so many others in the public sector who continue to strive to help with Guam's recovery; and

Our military partners, including Rear Admiral Benjamin Nicholson, and our business partners, including various organizations, who were and are all critical toward the path for recovery.

On behalf of a thankful nation and island community, and from the sacred Halls of this House of Representatives, I thank the many who worked prior, during, and after the storm to ensure that our people were safe, prepared, and on the path toward recovery. Many left behind their families, homes, and, in some cases, personal recovery to help our community overcome this latest challenge. Their selfless efforts and resiliency will never be forgotten.

God bless them. God bless Guam. God bless these United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BERT BOECKMANN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bert Boeckmann, one of the San Fernando Valley's most treasured community members. We lost Bert last month at 92 years of age.

A catalyst in the prosperity of the San Fernando Valley, Bert was a beloved friend, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather, and my friend.

Bert's impact began as a Galpin Motors salesman in 1953, when he was only 22 years old. Determined to succeed, he was the general manager by 1957. Bert was named president by 1964 and became sole owner in 1968.

As a salesman, Bert's desire to put the customer first by demonstrating his honesty and integrity was seen as an unusual practice, but it soon became the trait he and Galpin Motors were known for. Even as the company continued to grow, Bert always said that his, along with every employee's of Galpin Motors, goal was to serve the customer first. Employees who did not agree with this message were told: "Go work for the competition."

Galpin Motors expanded from a tiny, three-car dealership to an automotive enterprise with a large showroom, retail store, restaurant, and other amenities.

Since 1989, Galpin Motors became the number one Ford auto dealership in the world for both cars and trucks. Dedication to customer service helped the company grow, eventually expanding to include 12 brands. Today, Galpin Motors has more than 1,000 employees and earns more than \$1 billion in annual revenue.

Bert has always been on the cutting edge of customizing cars at the dealership level for his customers. He called it Galpinizing, which included custom paint jobs and bodywork, interiors, and van conversions.

Bert would push for innovative concepts, such as the introduction of European sunroof technology to America, which was hugely popular in sunny southern California.

Innovation and customization are central concepts of Galpin Auto Sports, which designed and built custom vehicles for enthusiasts and celebrities alike. Galpin Auto Sports would go on to be the home of the famous MTV show "Pimp My Ride," hosted by hip-hop artist Xzibit, which was viewed by millions of people across the globe.

Bert served on various national and regional boards, such as the Ford Motor Company's Performance Advisory Committee, National Dealer Council, Dealers Advertising Association, along with the California and the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Associations.

His efforts to innovate the business culminated in his induction into the Ford Hall of Fame.

Bert was equally renowned for his work as a devoted civic leader, having

worked with nearly every organization in the San Fernando Valley. Bert and his wife, Jane, received the Fernando Award, recognizing them as citizens who have contributed enormously to the San Fernando Valley.

Bert served on the Los Angeles Police Commission for over 16 years, for three mayors and six police chiefs.

He was a fierce advocate for the valley and worked to help us receive our fair share of resources.

Bert was known for his dedication to his company and his community. However, Bert's greatest commitment was to his relationship with his family, especially his wife, Jane. The two were married for 50 years, sharing their passion for spreading kindness to everyone who surrounded them.

While we greatly miss Bert, he is reunited with his wife, Jane, on the second anniversary of her passing. Jane was an amazing businesswoman and civic leader in her own right. She had many talents. She was a gifted interior designer, skilled golfer, licensed airplane pilot who flew across the country, and a driver for the Galpin Motors 24-hour endurance land race. Jane was the longtime publisher of Valley Magazine and was involved in various community groups.

Bert and Jane inspired us to practice kindness at all times.

Bert and Jane are survived by his daughters, LaVerne and Denise; his sons, Brett, Brad, and Beau; their 12 grandchildren, Dascha, Jacob, Amie, Brandon, Blake, Brooke, Amelia, Logan, Bliss, Brielle, Beau, and Blair; as well as 11 great-grandchildren, Phillip, Dennis, Brody, Violet, Anna Bell, Brayson, Brynlee, Bailee, Bronson, Pate, and Thatcher; and three great-great-grandchildren, Natalie, Mia, and Alice.

For all of this and more, we miss and honor the incredible life of our friend, Bert Boeckmann.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALBERT SHELANDER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Albert Shelander, a courageous veteran and dedicated community developer.

At just 18, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, spending 2 years on the USS *Janssen* destroyer escort in the Philippines. Upon coming home, he attended Emory University, where he served as the captain of the college's golf team.

After graduating, Albert dedicated his life to making good things happen in Glynn County. For 25 years, he served as director of the American National Bank of Brunswick and helped develop hundreds of acres of real estate throughout Brunswick and St. Simons Island.

As a member of the Salvation Army, he rang the bell regularly at Christmas

and also served as senior warden at his local church for 6 years.

Albert founded a 150-unit retirement home in Brunswick and directed its growth for 40 years.

He was also an active leader in the Museum of Coastal History, Glynn County Chamber of Commerce, Brunswick Rotary Club, and Brunswick Country Club.

There is no doubt that Albert's involvement in our community helped shape thousands of lives for the better, and I mourn his passing greatly.

CONGRATULATING SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' GOLF TEAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Savannah Christian High School girls' golf team on their 2023 AAA State championship win.

As a team, the girls had a combined final score of 488, winning the tournament by a very impressive 52-stroke margin. Not only was this a very decisive victory, but it also marked their second State title in a row.

This impressive athletic achievement was a team effort led by golfers such as Mary Miller, who had a score of 64 in one round followed by a score of 73, and sophomore Ava Cottis, who scored an also impressive 81 and 74.

I also recognize Coach Annie Keller, who was recently named the Savannah Morning News Girls Golf Coach of the Year. I know her coaching was essential for this victory.

I am so proud of these young women, and I know they will continue to represent their school well on and off the golf course.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING TERRY TOLBERT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Terry Tolbert on his 50th anniversary working at The Economic Opportunity Authority of Savannah-Chatham County.

Mr. Tolbert has truly been promoting positive change his entire life. He grew up in Savannah near Crawford Square, where he began his career with EOA as a teenager, eventually becoming the youngest member on their board of directors.

He also served on the Region IV Youth Council, covering eight southern states.

With each year that passed, Mr. Tolbert's impact grew as he implemented programs to help the disenfranchised, such as the homeless, veterans, foster grandparents, and low-income families.

He has an infectious can-do attitude and always emphasizes the importance of never giving up.

Mr. Tolbert now serves as the executive director of the EOA, and after 50 years, he is still working tirelessly to help people climb out of poverty.

His expertise speaks for itself, and I thank him for touching the lives of so many in the Savannah area.