

record numbers. As a U.S. territory and under the U.S. Constitution, it is Congress, not the United Nations, and certainly not a committee made up of authoritarian regimes that has the ultimate responsibility to address Puerto Rico's political status.

Puerto Ricans have made it very clear through votes and democratic elections—something these nations will never learn—we want to join our fellow Americans on equal footing as a full State of the Union.

#### ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the epidemic of gun violence our country is experiencing.

On average each year gun violence in America kills some 43,000 people and injuries around 76,000 more.

Over and over, our communities are left reeling from senseless tragedy, stuck in a devastating cycle of violence. We can no longer allow this level of pain to be our normal. Change must happen and happen now.

I am proud to have signed the discharge petitions to bring essential gun violence prevention legislation to the House floor, including the Assault Weapons Ban, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, and the Enhanced Background Checks Act.

These are rational and commonsense bills. They are not about taking away rights. They are about protecting our children, families, and communities. They are about taking the fear out of the every day.

Going to school, the grocery store, or even making a wrong turn should not be a death sentence. Our communities deserve better, and I vow to continue to fight for long overdue action to address gun violence in our beloved country.

#### HIGHLIGHTING THE SERVICE OF LEWIS LYMAN SUMNER

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I often say that Vermont is held together with duct tape, twine, and hundreds of volunteer hours.

I rise today to highlight the work of Lewis Lyman Sumner. His 54-year commitment to the Halifax community has been immeasurably impactful. He served for over half a century on the Halifax Select Board and gave 6 years of service to the National Guard. He is also a 50-year member of the Grange—such incredible public service.

The Sumner family has deep roots in Halifax and has been a staple in that community since they settled there in 1783. Lewis and his family continue to operate their family farm.

Lewis served his community as emergency management director for eight FEMA disasters, working tirelessly to keep Vermonters safe during these emergencies.

Lewis and his wife, Laura, are both dedicated public servants. Laura served as town clerk for 43 years until her retirement in 2010.

I close by thanking Lewis, Laura, and their family for their years of service to southern Vermont.

#### RECOGNIZING THE U.S. ARMY'S 54TH COAST ARTILLERY REGIMENT

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service and the legacy of the United States Army's 54th Coast Artillery Regiment that served during World War II.

As the Army's only all-Black heavy artillery regiment in World War II, they were given used weapons and secondhand uniforms from World War I. Despite that lack of fancy gear and guns, the men of the 54th stood firm and stood fast as they guarded the entire central coast of California, from San Francisco Bay to Port San Luis, from Morro Bay to Monterey Bay, and from Lighthouse Point in Santa Cruz to Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove.

Through their service, but also through their social lives, the soldiers impacted and became entwined in our community. They formed a local baseball league during their assignment, and after their service some even returned to the Central Coast to serve our community.

Mr. Speaker, the history of the all-Black 54th Coast Artillery Regiment is not just important to the 19th Congressional District, but it is about the broader story of our military. Americans of all levels, all races, all genders, all creeds coming together to fulfill their responsibility of living in our democracy by defending our communities and serving our country.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF EUGENE GATES

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss of my constituent and a beloved member of the United States Postal Service, Eugene Gates.

On Wednesday, Mr. Gates passed while delivering mail on his route in Dallas, Texas, where the heat index reached temperatures of nearly 115 degrees.

My heart breaks for Eugene's wife, Carla, his children, grandchildren, and everyone in Lancaster, Texas, who called him neighbor and friend.

Mr. Gates was a 40-year veteran of the U.S. Postal Service and will be remembered and mourned by many in north Texas who looked forward to his visits every day. He had the heart of a public servant and will be missed by all who had the honor of knowing him.

As a member of the Oversight and Accountability Committee, I have continued to uplift and fight my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for respect and to protect and honor those Federal workers just like Mr. Gates instead of belittling them. Mr. Gates should be here.

It is past time that we do the people's work in the people's House. I pray that we honor Mr. Gates' life by offering pragmatic solutions along with our prayers. We need to do this for Eugene, his family, and for all of our letter carriers putting public service before self every single day.

#### SUPPORTING FEDERAL FIREFIGHTERS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40 brave Nevada Bureau of Land Management wildland firefighters who have selflessly offered their support to battle the raging fires in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I include their names in the RECORD.

Anderson, Truett, Southern Nevada District; Arroyo, Omar, Carson City District Office; Atwater, Trevor, Carson City District Office; Brunjes, Bailey C, Southern Nevada District; Chatham, William A, Carson City District Office; Daniels, Aaron Lee, Carson City District Office; De Raedt, Nick Peter, Carson City District Office; Drake, Lauryn Emily, Carson City District Office; Duenas, Kevin Gerardo, Carson City District Office; Engdahl, Alyssa Grace, Carson City District Office; Esh, Heidi, Carson City District Office.

Evers, Tommy, Carson City District Office; Fonseca, Alex, Southern Nevada District; Giordano, John M, Carson City District Office; Henderson, Theodore A, Carson City District Office; Hucks, Roman B, Carson City District Office; Kalb, Jonathan Matthew, Carson City District Office; Kavle, Henry James, Winnemucca District; Kelly, Kevin, Carson City District Office; Koski, Christine Marie, Carson City District Office; Kracaw, Will A, Winnemucca District.

Li, Ren X, Carson City District Office; Livie, Nathan David, Carson City District Office; May, Wyndham F, Carson City District Office; McGovern, Nicholas B, Southern Nevada District; Mini, Daniel Raymond, Carson City District Office; Monson, Victor Charles, Carson City District Office; Mortimore, Jennifer Lee, Carson City District Office; Murphy, Ayden Patrick, Carson City District Office; Quenga, Kevin, Carson City District Office; Richmond, Levi Robert, South Nevada District.

Rodriguez, Roberto, Carson City District Office; Satterfield, Nathan Robert, Carson City District Office; Shoemaker, Don, Carson City District Office; St Cyr, Andrew T, Carson City District Office; Stephenson, Karl Joseph, Battle Mountain District; Tartaglia, Vincenzo Cesidio, Carson City District Office; Wadsworth, Justin Allen, Carson City

District Office; Wagner, Lane Nicholas, Carson City District Office; Williams, Joshua David, Carson City District Office; Whipple, Tyler Jeffrey, Southern Nevada District.

Ms. TITUS. When smoke covered Washington, D.C., and New York for hundreds of miles recently, people across the East Coast witnessed the impact of the devastating wildfires Canada is currently experiencing.

To date, the United States has deployed more than 600 firefighters and support personnel to respond to these wildfires in Canada, including our Silver State Interagency Hotshot Crew.

Nearly every major wildfire in the U.S. relies on response from Federal wildland firefighters and the services their specialized crews provide, but right now they are paid significantly less than their counterparts at State and local agencies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Nevada Federal firefighters, the Hotshots, who are on the front lines. I urge support for a needed increase in their base salaries. It is the least we can do for their service and sacrifice.

#### MORGAN HALLETT IS A TRULY EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT ATHLETE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Morgan Hallett, a rising senior from Norton High School, as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Morgan recently won her second straight Division II State title in the discus, blowing out her competition with a record-breaking throw of 170 feet, 8 inches.

After putting on a brilliant athletic display, which Morgan and her dad fondly call the "Mo Show," Morgan now has the longest throw in a Division II State meet and is tied for the longest throw in Division II history.

Morgan has established herself as a truly exceptional student athlete, and her hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence are truly outstanding.

Morgan's achievements have made her family, teammates, coaches, school, and community proud. Once again, I congratulate Morgan Hallett on her second straight Division II State title in discus and the best of luck as she reaches her third next year.

□ 1200

#### RECOGNIZING LILYANA BALDERAS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Lilyana Balderas, who is an Anaheim High School freshman and a 15-year-old athlete who is rapidly rising

through the Nation's ranks as one of the best wrestlers in the country.

Lilyana just finished her freshman year at Anaheim High School with 33 wins, crowned the 121-pound CIF Champion and CIF State runner-up champ. She is ranked 10th nationally as the best wrestler in the United States.

She is a top-notch student with a 3.9 GPA.

What is her goal?

Lilyana simply wants to win an Olympic Gold Medal for the United States.

I know Lilyana has got this.

Go Colonists.

We will be watching her career.

#### HONORING REVEREND MARIE GALATAS ORTIZ

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz, Louisiana's matriarch in the civil rights movement.

After the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ortiz became increasingly involved and determined to work toward equality in her community. She founded the Grass Roots Organization for Women, GROW, in 1975, aiming to encourage women's participation in leadership roles and challenge patriarchal social systems.

Ortiz also led protests and demonstrations, including one demanding justice for the death of Stanley Magee. She actively fought against racially motivated violence and worked to remove Confederate statues in Louisiana.

Ortiz remains committed to her spiritual mission and continues to support underserved individuals through various organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Reverend Galatas for her hard work and dedication. I pray that she will continue to fight assuring a successful and bright future for all men and women. Today, we give her roses while she lives.

God bless Reverend Galatas, and may she continue her great work.

#### 23RD ANNUAL NEW CITIZEN RECOGNITION PROGRAM EVENT

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the new 56 citizens of our Nation in the city of Elgin, which I am proud to represent in the Third Congressional District of Illinois. The city of Elgin's New Citizen Recognition Ceremony is a cherished tradition and a celebration that goes back 23 years.

Every single new U.S. citizen has a story. They took a journey that has brought them to that citizenship ceremony. As their Congresswoman, I

couldn't be more proud of who they are, of their strength, of what they have overcome, the sacrifices they have made, the changes, and the geographical distances from their families.

I know it hasn't been easy, but they did it. I celebrate them and the journey that has brought them to the United States.

They know that in Elgin, a city in Illinois' Third Congressional District, they will always find a community with open doors and open hearts.

"Congratulations." "Felicitaciones."

#### BIPARTISAN COSPONSORS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you, honored to share the progress we have made in improving the lives of eastern North Carolinians. Together we have cosponsored 100 bipartisan bills that address our communities' most pressing needs.

My commitment to put aside partisanship and focus on our shared values is stronger than ever. Working together, we can accelerate job creation, expand educational opportunities, and champion affordable healthcare for families across the First Congressional District.

This isn't just about the present, but it is about creating a brighter future for the next generation. With every bill I cosponsor, I envision a community where our children have boundless opportunities to succeed.

I am immensely proud of the bipartisan progress we have achieved. Mr. Speaker, let's continue to bridge divides, forge new pathways, and create a legacy of positive change that will inspire generations to come.

#### WE MUST FREE JAMSHID SHARMAHD

(Mrs. TORRES of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand the release and safe return of Jamshid Sharmahd.

Mr. Sharmahd, a U.S. national and the father of one of my constituents, was unlawfully arrested and imprisoned in Iran 3 years ago in retaliation for simply doing his job as an independent journalist.

Following a sham trial that was condemned by international human rights groups, Mr. Sharmahd was sentenced to death. Mr. Sharmahd was convicted in an Iranian court of "corruption on Earth," a nonsense charge designed only to imprison and execute political dissidents.

He deserves to be reunited with his daughter in Ontario, California.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the State Department and the White House to do