

It is simply unconscionable that guns are now the leading cause of death of children and teens in America.

Just two years ago, I joined Congress in passing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the first major gun violence prevention law since the Brady Bill.

Already, this legislation is saving lives, but we need bolder action. It is long past the time to do something about the epidemic of gun violence in our nation? The nation that prides itself on protecting our children and the future generations. If we want to protect Americans, we must start by learning how to effectively store guns in the homes that choose to have them.

Americans want more than thoughts and prayers.

They want action.

Gun safety is a nonpartisan issue that requires a bipartisan solution.

Over 90 percent of Americans—including Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike—want to expand the Brady Bill and pass universal background checks so that we can end the scourge of gun violence.

A majority of Americans want an assault weapons ban, extreme risk laws, and support for community violence intervention.

Data for Progress finds 49 percent of voters support changing Senate rules so Democrats can pass gun control legislation.

This includes 76 percent of Democrats, 43 percent of Independents, and 24 percent of Republicans.

Put simply, Americans deserve sensible action to end this epidemic.

The Brady's legacy lives on today in the gun violence prevention organization named after them.

We must remain persistent in the fight for a safer America that is free of gun violence.

I will continue to work with colleagues to end this epidemic.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRYAN
ANDREW ZEMEK

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Zemek, a Mississippi National Guardsman, who tragically lost his life when Apache Helicopter, Tail Number 52630, went down near Booneville, Mississippi Friday afternoon of February 23, 2024.

Bryan Zemek, at 36 years old, served his country with distinction for nearly two decades, demonstrating his courage and skill as a Standardization Instructor Pilot for Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation

Regiment in Tupelo, Mississippi. His extensive experience included over 2450 flying hours in the Apache helicopter, showcasing his expertise in aircraft gunnery, weapon systems, combat arms, operations, and tactics.

Beyond his military service, Bryan was a devoted family man, leaving behind his beloved wife Robyn and their four children, Ayden, Logan, Swayze, and Avery. He was not only a skilled aviator, but also an outdoorsman, marksman, and even a private plane owner. His love for boating, aviation, and serving as

a civilian Emergency Medical Services pilot reflected his adventurous spirit and commitment to helping others

Bryan embodied the values of faith, family, and patriotism. His dedication to his home state of Mississippi and to the United States of America exemplifies the true essence of an American hero. As we reflect on his life and legacy, let us hold his memory dear in our hearts and express our profound gratitude for his selfless service and ultimate sacrifice.

In this time of sorrow, we offer our unwavering support and comfort. May his legacy endure as a beacon of courage and honor, reminding us of all the sacrifices made by those who serve our nation. God bless Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Andrew Zemek, a proud Mississippian, and a true American hero. May he rest in peace, and may his spirit continue to inspire us all.

CELEBRATING THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS JASPER

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand to honor Former State Representative Thomas Jasper, a gentleman near and dear to the citizens of New Orleans and Louisiana's Second Congressional District, as he celebrates his 95th Birthday.

Native New Orleanian Thomas Jasper was born on February 23, 1929. An ambitious and promising young man that attended Booker T. Washington Sr. High School in the 2nd Congressional District. After high school, he served in the United States Armed Forces and later graduated from Southern University at New Orleans. He is a notable accountant and professional, serving in several key administrative positions in city and state governments. He proudly and successfully served the Lower Nine Housing Development Corporation, Minority Business Development, and Louisiana State Office of Minority Affairs under the leadership of former Louisiana Governors Edwards and David Treen and former City of New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy.

In 1976, he was elected to serve as Louisiana State Representative to House District 102 in the Lower Ninth Ward. He was a co-founding member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. He completed his tenure in 1980. He consistently demonstrated servant leadership acumen by being elected to the New Orleans State Central Democratic Committee and Democratic National Convention as a delegate.

From 2016 through 2021, it was an honor to have his support and insight as my trusted Advisor during my term as Louisiana State Senator. Mr. Jasper also was my trusted Advisor during my tenures at Councilman of District C in New Orleans, Louisiana from 1994 to 2002.

Avid community leader Mr. Jasper can always be found helping others in the community, advising on business development, and providing referrals to resources.

A pillar of Mr. Jasper's family upbringing is the biblical teachings regarding service to all God's children. As a young man and throughout most of his adult years, Mr. Jasper was a

member of the Historic Second Baptist Church, serving as a Sanctuary choir member under Rev. Thomas Nelson Washington. A man dedicated to the will of God, he was regularly found in Sunday school, singing in the Choir and being a guest soloist on church programs across the city, and he continues to do so today. Currently, he worships at the First Agape Baptist Church, where he serves as a senior deacon and treasurer under the ministry of the Rev. Eddie M. Payne. Mr. Jasper loves to minister in song. He favors the older spirituals like "I'll Tell it Wherever I Go" and "King Jesus Will Roll All Burdens Away" but is most inspired by "What a Blessing in Jesus I've Found."

His favorite scripture is Romans 8:38–39 is his message to his children and grandchildren—"Be prayerful, have faith and trust in God, and let nothing separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus."

Mr. Jasper is the son of Samuel and Louise Jasper, devoted husband of Florence Harrell for 74 blessed years, and has reared three children, Gwendolyn Jasper Barnes, Nedra Jasper Alcorn, and the late Rev. Glenn Thomas Jasper. He is the proud grandfather of six grandchildren and doting great-grandfather of eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Jasper is a mighty man of service, and today, he continues to serve as my purpose-driven mentor and father figure. He has encouraged me through all of my dreams throughout my career. He is genuinely a patriarch to many who continue to cross his path and will always be a part of my journey as I lead the constituents of the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana. He is my dear friend and mentor, and I hope to be the mentor to others as he has been for me.

On this day, I wish my dear friend a Happy and Blessed Birthday, and may he see many more.

HONORING INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE RENEE PACK

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Indiana State Representative for House District 92, Renee Pack. Prior to joining the Indiana General Assembly, she served in the United States Army for five years, where she trained and served as a behavioral specialist and was also certified in drug and alcohol counseling. Her training in the Army led her to a lifetime of service in our local schools, as a small business operator and now at the Indiana Statehouse.

Since being elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 2020, Renee Pack has led with courage and strength. She has become a champion for a more equal, and just environment for residents of her district and all Hoosiers. Her service in the Army has led her to where she is today, serving as the Ranking Member on the Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee. She also serves on the Committees on Commerce, Small Business and Economic Development, and Children and Human Affairs. She has invested her years in public service to uplift those in need, strengthen veteran services in Indiana, and advocate for equality under the law.

Her service and training in the Army still have a lasting impact on her public service today. Her collective experiences inspired her to author Indiana House Bill 1188, prohibiting lifetime limitations for Medicaid recipients receiving treatment for substance abuse and addiction.

Each month, our office recognizes women veterans who are often overlooked and underrepresented, especially women of color. Afri-

can Americans have a long history serving our country, as the National Museum of African American History and Culture recognizes “From the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror, African Americans have served in the United States military. In defending their country, they hoped to earn freedom and citizenship and contribute to a changed America where racial equality was possible.”

On this last day of Black History Month, I am proud to honor State Representative Renee Pack for her service to our country by giving her the Shelia Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing State Representative and Hoosier Women Hero, Renee Pack.