

just sitting back in their own sorrow but actually moving forward in the American spirit, in working with people of goodwill, who want to protect our children, who want to see the dangers as they exist in our country today and make a meaningful difference.

I applaud David Siegel for not only his investment of millions of dollars, but I also applaud David Siegel for standing up and saying that he believes that the only way we can win this battle is through the confidence that we give our children, showing them that we care about them, that our schools will take this same rigorous responsibility, and, we, as a community and as a Nation, can solve this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of David and Jackie Siegel, not in their grief but in the resiliency that they had to move forward to help other people in our country.

□ 1215

SALT DEDUCTION CAP HYPOCRISY

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

Mr. LALOTA. Hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker. Hypocrisy.

For years, House Democrats said they were in favor of raising or eliminating the State and local tax deduction cap. Yet, exactly 3 months ago today on the floor of the House of Representatives, every single House Democrat voted to block a bill that would eliminate the marriage penalty on the SALT deduction cap.

It is shameful, Mr. Speaker, that House Democrats claim to support SALT relief but vote otherwise. Their party line “no” vote denied many Long Island families, including many of my constituents, about \$2,000 in much-needed tax relief.

As a lifelong Long Islander, I understand how costly Albany Democrats have made life for New York suburbs. We have the highest property, sales, and income taxes in the entire Nation. Yet, when we needed Washington Democrats to help relieve us of some of that burden by raising the SALT cap, they ran for the hills, Mr. Speaker.

I am disappointed in my colleagues from the other side of the aisle, but, Mr. Speaker, I am not deterred. I will continue to call on all of my colleagues to help raise or eliminate the cap on the SALT deduction. My constituents deserve nothing less.

HONORING RICHARD JOHN McDERMOTT II AND ANNAMARIE McDERMOTT

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the lives of Richard John McDermott II and Annamarie Christine McDermott, valued and beloved members of the

Oswego County community who were tragically killed in a car accident last year, on June 10, 2023.

Nearly 1 year later, our community still feels the gaping hole created by the sudden loss of these two wonderful people. Rick and Annamarie left an enduring legacy and profound impact on their three children and their grandchildren, family, friends, and community, and also on me.

I was fortunate enough to know Rick and to actually become friends with him over the past 20 years. He was a bright, engaging, and passionate advocate, particularly for the Second Amendment, and also an avid sportsman and conservationist. Rick believed in preserving the natural resources we are blessed to have in New York State, especially in the beautiful region of upstate New York, where he resided for most of his life.

Rick McDermott worked at Novelis for over 23 years as an electrical engineer and retired in April 2023, just a few months before his life was tragically taken from him.

As an avid outdoorsman, Rick devoted countless hours to local gun clubs and conservation groups. He was a tireless advocate and trusted resource for hunting rights and Second Amendment rights across New York State.

In 2012, Rick founded the New York Crossbow Coalition, which was critically important to the efforts to legalize the crossbow as hunting equipment in New York. I remember meeting with Rick when I was a member of the State legislature to organize several rallies in Albany against New York's unconstitutional gun law, known as the SAFE Act, passed in the dark of night in 2013.

Earlier today, I had the honor of meeting Tom, Rick's son, at the White House. They were touring the White House, a wonderful opportunity that we have as American citizens. Tom informed me earlier that he was actually an attendee at one of these massive rallies at the capitol in Albany.

Rick was always leading the way on Second Amendment issues and always in Oswego. He was passionate, always trying to educate everyone in our community so they understood the true value of our Bill of Rights and everything that we stood for as Americans and as New Yorkers, particularly. Understanding the value of outdoor recreational programs, Rick led many youth pheasant hunts and wounded veterans crossbow hunts throughout the years, making this his mission.

Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Rick's lovely wife, Annamarie, she exhibited a similar passion and dedication to our community.

The heartwarming tributes by their own hometown to Annamarie and Rick are really incredible and touching, and they reveal the depth of devotion of these two wonderful people to our community and to their families.

Annamarie McDermott was a devoted teacher's assistant for nearly 20 years

in the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown, the APW, school district, as we call it. Annamarie was dedicated to supporting young, aspiring leaders in our community. She was described by so many who loved and admired her as a person who would strive to go above and beyond for her students.

Annamarie created the Breakfast Club and also another club called the Rebel Club, which were beloved morning and afternoon programs that encouraged students to embrace learning and foster stronger relationships with other students.

They were united in marriage on May 16, 1987. Rick and Annamarie's legacy is not only defined by their professional achievements but by the love and devotion they poured into their role as parents of Megan Burch and her husband, Eric, who now reside in Canandaigua, also in New York's 24th District; Valerie Bullock and her husband, Troy, of Pulaski; Thomas McDermott and his girlfriend, Allie Hamilton, of West Monroe; and also as the grandparents of Brayleigh and Mason Bullock.

Rick and Annamarie and their unwavering support and presence at every milestone event underscored their commitment to this wonderful family and community, leaving an indelible mark on all fortunate enough to know them. Certainly, it was an honor for me to know Rick. What an impression he left on me.

My deepest condolences to the family and friends of these wonderful people taken too early in life. I hope this modest recognition and remembrance of Rick and Annamarie McDermott on the House floor will provide some comfort to their family, friends, and everyone who knew Rick and Annamarie.

I also hope that all Americans will know that, as they witness on this floor, there are wonderful people living wonderful lives of courage, compassion, and patriotism in our own communities who are not seeking recognition but always seeking to do good for their communities, for their families, and for everyone who knows them, and who leave a beautiful and indelible impression on so many people they met.

I thank the families and everyone who have suffered through this very difficult year and provided so much support, including the communities, in all that has happened to the young children, the grandchildren, and also to the kids, Valerie, Thomas, and Megan, and all that they have done to try to stand strong in the face of this tragedy.

I thank, again, everyone who supported Annamarie and Rick and who supports their family.

CELEBRATING JAYLIN SIMPSON

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 celebrate the

achievements of Jaylin Simpson, who was drafted by the Indianapolis Colts. Jaylin was drafted in the fifth round of the 2024 NFL draft after 5 years of playing at the University of Auburn.

Before attending Auburn, Jaylin graduated high school from Frederica Academy in the First District of Georgia. In his senior year at Frederica, Jaylin racked up 1,433 passing yards, 441 rushing yards, 22 touchdowns, and 1 interception as Frederica's quarterback. He also made 48 tackles and 4 interceptions while playing corner in a season that led to a GISA State Championship for Frederica.

At Auburn, Jaylin played in 47 games, tallying 116 total tackles, 7 interceptions, 14 pass breakups, and 4 tackles for a loss during his career.

The Indianapolis Colts have no doubt just received an outstanding football player. I congratulate Jaylin. I know I speak for the whole First District when I say we are very proud of him.

FLETC DEPUTY DIRECTOR KAI MUNSHI

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Kai Munshi, who is retiring from his position as deputy director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers.

Deputy Director Munshi's law enforcement career began in August 2002 as a U.S. Secret Service special agent. He helped conduct investigations related to issues such as counterfeit currency, bank fraud, and other financial crimes.

Deputy Director Munshi also served in the Special Operations Division Counter Assault Team, where he led countless protective missions for the President of the United States and other dignitaries domestically and abroad.

During his time as deputy director, he oversaw training for 125 Federal partner organizations. He directed operations across all four of FLETC's training delivery points, leading FLETC's administrative, security, financial, mission support, and resource management programs.

I thank Deputy Director Munshi for his years of dedicated service to this great country. I hope he enjoys his well-earned retirement.

CELEBRATING JAMARI MCIVORY

Mr. CARTER of GEORGIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Savannah Christian's Jamari McIvory, who recently received the 71st annual Dearing Award.

The Ashley Dearing Award, given annually to the area's most versatile male athlete for more than seven decades, was recently presented at Savannah Christian to Jamari, who consistently brings home hardware for his alma mater.

He is the 10th Savannah Christian Raider to win the award in 71 years, and he is currently signed to play football at Northern Illinois.

Jamari is truly an all-star. Not only is he great at football, but he is a star on the basketball court. He is one of

the greatest track athletes Georgians have seen in ages. He is the reigning State champion for both 200 and 400 meters for track. Jamari's record speaks for itself. He is a multisport star, and the First District could not be more proud of him.

I congratulate Jamari. I know we will continue to see his success on the field for years to come.

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE LINDSAY THOMAS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a former United States House of Representatives Member from the great State of Georgia, Lindsay Thomas, for receiving the 2023 Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award.

The Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award is given to those who are recognized as an environmental and natural resources leader, embodying the passion and success of Rock Howard, Georgia's first director of the Environmental Protection Division.

It is only natural that Representative Thomas received this award. He was a champion of the outdoors and conservation during his 10 years in Congress. He cofounded the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus in 1989 to bring together Members of the House and Senate in a bipartisan effort to support America's hunting and fishing communities and Federal policy decisions.

This bipartisan caucus has helped influence policy benefiting hunters and anglers, and it has inspired the creation of parallel caucuses in 50 States and 36 Governors' offices.

Again, I thank my good friend, Representative Thomas, for being a tireless supporter of sportsmen and our environment. I congratulate him on winning this prestigious award.

□ 1230

GHOST GUNS

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about ghost guns. They have been called the Ikea of firearms. You can order them online, and in less than an hour, have a firearm as deadly as any sold by a gun dealer.

These fully functioning, untraceable firearms can be bought without a background check, and they are wreaking havoc on our communities.

That is why they have become the weapon of choice for people who would otherwise be banned from purchasing a gun, including known violent offenders, gun traffickers, and increasingly, teenagers, whose digital literacy enables them to purchase ghost gun kits freely online.

Prior to 2019, Philadelphia police discovered five or fewer handmade firearms per year during criminal inves-

tigations; but by 2022, 575 ghost guns turned up in investigations, and that number has only grown.

Last summer, the mass shooter who killed five people in the Kingessing neighborhood had two ghost guns in his possession when he was arrested.

Recently, Delaware County was rocked when a 15-year-old killed another 15-year-old using a ghost gun.

These guns are reaching into every community, including the heartland, and not just our big cities.

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the number of ghost guns seized by law enforcement has skyrocketed in the last decade from less than 3,000 in 2017 to nearly 26,000 in 2022 alone.

They have become a lucrative business for gun traffickers.

In the last couple years, district attorneys in three suburban and rural counties near Philadelphia have busted gun traffickers assembling and selling ghost guns for profit.

In one instance, the trafficker had set up shop across the street from the county courthouse.

This has to stop.

We hear all the time from lawmakers who oppose gun safety laws that we should focus on violent crime. Well, that is exactly what H.R. 4992, the Ghost Guns and Untraceable Firearms Act of 2023, would do.

There is no reason why anyone would want an untraceable gun that can be purchased without a background check, except to use it in a crime.

Chairman JORDAN likes to say that bad guys aren't stupid, they are just bad. But this bill has been waiting for consideration since it was referred to the House Judiciary Committee nearly a year ago.

In the absence of Federal action, cities like Philadelphia, Baltimore, and L.A. have been forced to undertake creative legal strategies like suing ghost gun manufacturers to block them from selling these guns without background checks.

However, that is far from enough to stem the tide.

The White House also stepped up to issue a regulation that would require ghost guns to be traceable and subject to background checks, but that regulation has been challenged in the Supreme Court.

Get this: The argument is that the White House cannot regulate guns because it is Congress' job to regulate guns.

It is time for Congress to stop arming people who should not have access to guns.

Members of Congress need to make a choice. Will they stand with Americans who want to live free from gun violence, or will they stay in the pocket of ghost gun manufacturers? Americans—our children—deserve to know where their Representatives stand.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MARIAN ANDERSON

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the legacy of