

recognized in each other the same bloodlines and the same determination to thrive.

The Crucian-Rican Tramp celebrates this truth: We are stronger together.

HONORING FATHER MIKE CRISOSTOMO

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and the service of Father Mike Crisostomo, a Catholic priest from Guam who devoted his life to caring for others and strengthening our island community.

For nearly three decades, Father Mike, affectionately known as Pale Mike, served the people of Guam, offering guidance, comfort, and support in moments of both joy and hardship. He was known for showing up when people needed him the most, whether in times of celebration, grief, or uncertainty.

Father Mike's service extended beyond the walls of the church. He worked with families, the vulnerable, and those facing difficult circumstances, always with compassion and humility.

Father Mike Crisostomo lived a life rooted in faith, service, and love for his community. Guam is in a better place because of his work, and his legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched.

MARKING 15 YEARS SINCE TUCSON SHOOTING

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker Emerita, Senator MARK KELLY, the Arizona delegation, and to all of my colleagues who are present here today, I rise on the 15th anniversary of the tragic mass shooting in Tucson, Arizona, that took 6 lives and injured 13 others, including our former colleague, our good friend, Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, an extraordinary American leader who I am pleased to say is here with us in the Chamber today.

At 10:10 a.m. mountain standard time, in Tucson, Arizona, during a Congress on Your Corner event being held by Representative Gabby Giffords to serve her constituents, a gunman opened fire on this peaceful gathering.

We mourn for those whose lives were lost on that fateful day: John Roll, a Federal judge and public servant; Gabe Zimmerman, a dedicated congressional staffer; a precious 9-year-old girl named Christina-Taylor Green; and beloved community members Dorothy "Dot" Morris, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard.

□ 1210

At the same time, we are thankful to God for the survival, the resilience, the

courage, the strength, the persistence of Congresswoman Giffords and all those who survived on that fateful day.

Prior to this assassination attempt, Congresswoman Giffords served this body and the people of Arizona's Eighth District with great distinction, dedication, and determination. Her policy interests were diverse, spanning from immigration reform, economic opportunity, and promoting solar and clean energy.

After experiencing firsthand, in the most horrific fashion possible, the horror of a mass shooting, she refocused her efforts on ending the gun violence epidemic in America once and for all. We honor her and celebrate her for the transformational work that she has done in the years that have followed.

House Democrats stand with Gabby and with all Americans who say enough is enough.

Enough with the gun violence epidemic being the leading cause of death for the children in this country.

Enough with mass shootings being as frequent as the common cold.

Enough with the text messages to parents saying "I love you" because there is another active school shooter.

Enough with the mass-casualty incidents at concerts, grocery stores, movie theatres, nightclubs, churches, mosques, synagogues, and other gathering places.

Enough with weapons of war flooding our communities, while merchants of death rake in record profits.

Enough unnecessary loss of life due to preventable, senseless gun violence.

This is the cause to which Congresswoman Giffords has now dedicated her life, and we all join her in proclaiming enough is enough.

It is time to end the gun violence epidemic in America once and for all.

While the challenges to address this crisis may feel insurmountable at times, we cannot and will not give up hope, inspired by the perseverance of our dear leader, Congresswoman Giffords.

I am heartened by the work that has been done despite the considerable forces that have been arrayed against us.

That progress includes, under the leadership of then-Speaker NANCY PELOSI, passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act in 2022, which represented the strongest new Federal gun safety legislation in 30 years.

Our job, of course, as Gabby makes clear, is far from finished. Every day an average of 327 people are shot in this country, including 23 children shot on average every day. Over 65 million Americans say at least one person in their family has been fatally shot, their lives extinguished by gun violence in this country. There are 393 million guns in the United States of America, more guns than people, and law enforcement can't tell you where a majority of those guns are because of barriers that have been erected keeping criminals protected.

It does not have to be this way. We know there are commonsense solutions to stop the gun violence and keep the American people safe.

We can start by closing the gun background loophole that allows dangerous people to buy firearms without background checks.

We need to ban assault weapons in the United States of America to prevent these weapons of war from continuing to destroy the lives of everyday Americans.

Led by our distinguished appropriators like ROSA DELAUR, we are continuing to fight for robust funding for community violence intervention programs and appropriate funding for the ATF and gun violence research. Breaking the devastating cycle of gun violence that has a choke hold on this country is one of our Caucus' highest priorities and will be a high-priority issue when we take back control of the majority after the November election.

Democrats are continuing to maintain our commitment to keep everyday Americans safe from the scourge of gun violence, and we will not stop fighting for proven policies that we know will reduce gun violence in every community throughout our Nation.

I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution introduced by Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ to commemorate the tragic event that occurred on January 8, 2011.

I once again thank our colleague, our fearless leader, our distinguished champion, Congresswoman Giffords, for her presence here today on this solemn anniversary and for her tireless, matchless, incredible advocacy to end the scourge of gun violence in the United States of America once and for all.

I now ask everyone in the Chamber to stand, and for everyone throughout the campus to join us in a moment of silence to commemorate the lives lost and the lives forever changed by the tragic shooting that occurred on January 8, 2011.

□ 1220

ACA TAX CREDITS EXPIRED

(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. Madam Speaker, Christmas has come and gone. As the ball dropped bringing in a new year, families in eastern North Carolina and across the Nation literally on New Year's Day are feeling the squeeze of rising healthcare insurance costs.

It is not a happy new year for everyone. These are hardworking families, our neighbors and friends, trying to raise kids and buy groceries, and they are small business owners.

Congress must act to extend these subsidies so hardworking families aren't left stretching out tight budgets

and forced to face skyrocketing health insurance premiums, or better yet, left without coverage all together.

We can pursue meaningful reforms. Let me say it again. We can pursue meaningful reforms without sacrificing access to affordable care, and that is exactly what the people sent us here to do.

UNAFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COSTS

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

Ms. MORRISON. Madam Speaker, thousands of Minnesotans and millions of Americans are facing unaffordable healthcare costs. Because of their cruelly named One Big Beautiful Bill Act and Speaker Johnson's refusal to act, the Republican majority is creating a healthcare crisis that will literally dismantle American public health.

Americans are being forced into crushing medical debt, are in danger of losing their closest hospital, clinic, or emergency room.

As a doctor, I worry for the patients delaying their care and for clinics and hospitals already struggling to meet the needs of their community.

As a Minnesotan, I am heartbroken for my State. Minnesotans have suffered immeasurable loss following the tragedies of recent months.

The Trump administration's reckless actions and deliberate inaction from Republicans in Congress jeopardize the operation and availability of facilities that are the first site of care in the most tragic circumstances.

I have a responsibility to be abundantly clear, Madam Speaker. The consequences of inaction and ignoring hospitals, doctors, patients, and your own constituents will be catastrophic. The price of failing to deliver affordable healthcare isn't losing elections. It is real human suffering and American lives.

CELEBRATING WESTCHESTER JEWISH COUNCIL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, this year the Westchester Jewish Council is celebrating their 50-year anniversary, advancing a vision to serve the Jewish community of Westchester County: 130,000 people and 126 member organizations. Led by president Michael Mittelman, the board of directors, and the talented professional staff headed by CEO Elliot Forchheimer, the WJC has sponsored and organized public programs from Holocaust remembrance to Passover celebrations and gatherings. They have ensured greater synagogue security, programs to combat hatred and anti-Semitism, and the connection to Israel.

At the upcoming 50th Anniversary Gala, two outstanding individuals will be honored: board member Stu Seltzer and Pam Goldstein.

Pam is the chief operating officer of WJC. Stu, a Mamaroneck resident, is a professional in brand licensing and partnership marketing, president of a firm dominant in that field. Along with serving as a NYU adjunct professor, he is active in his local community and of the Westchester Jewish Center.

Pam has a long record of activism and volunteerism as a member of Temple Israel Center, active PTO leader and parent at what is now the Leffell School, and important nonprofits such as the Breast Cancer Foundation and the Pediatric Cancer Foundation. Friends and colleagues of Stu and Pam will join in the celebration of their accomplishments and the 50-year accomplishments of the WJC.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the Westchester Jewish Council.

CELEBRATING DON STEVENS

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Don Stevens, the legendary voice of the Rochester Americans, as he calls his final season behind the microphone.

For four decades, Don has called over 3,300 games for the Amerks and became the longest tenured play-by-play broadcaster in the American Hockey League.

From Calder Cup runs to cold weeknights downtown, he has been the soundtrack of winter in Rochester calling games from a press box at the Blue Cross Arena that now proudly bears his name.

Known as the dean of AHL broadcasters, a member of the Rochester Americans Hall of Fame, and a two-time winner of the James H. Ellery Memorial Award for media excellence, Don has served in roles from public relations director to TV host, and founded the AHL Broadcasters and Writers Association.

We thank Don for the memories, the excitement, and for making Amerks hockey sound like home. I wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES STRUGGLING TO AFFORD HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today because the House has a critical opportunity to support families and small businesses who are struggling to afford healthcare for 2026.

I am thinking of the parents I have talked to who will drop coverage for

their families because their premiums are doubling and tripling, the nonprofits who won't be able to cover employees anymore, the manufacturer that is now paying more for health insurance than most of their raw materials.

The impacts of this healthcare debate are real and they are immediate.

This week Congress can solve the problem and actually make people's lives better.

Everywhere I go across New Hampshire, I hear the same thing: Money is tight, and people are worried about their futures.

The millions of families who rely on the Affordable Care Act tax credits for health insurance have waited long enough for Congress to do the right thing.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation to ensure that hard-working Americans can maintain their coverage and have the health and financial security that they deserve.

FIREFIGHTER PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. WHITESIDES. Madam Speaker, this week marks the first anniversary of the southern California wildfires that took lives, devastated communities, and left families across our region displaced.

We are lucky that the damage was not worse, and that is only because of the wildland firefighters who run toward danger and risk their lives for all of us.

For decades, these heroes were prohibited from wearing respiratory protection, even as the science made clear that wildfire smoke causes lasting lung damage and is linked to more than a dozen cancers.

Firefighters' life expectancy is now nearly 10 years shorter than the average American. That is unacceptable.

The Healthy Lungs for Heroes Act changes that. It directs our Federal land agencies to develop and require respiratory protection when smoke exposure becomes dangerous.

Protecting our firefighters' lungs should not be controversial. This bill ensures that those who protect us are finally protected themselves.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON RETAINING A PORTION OF H.R. 6938, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE; ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of retaining a portion of the bill on H.R. 6938 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?