

million in grants that were already designated by Congress to community violence intervention programs.

CVI organizations are led by trusted community members who offer job training, mental health resources, de-escalation tactics, and more to keep our neighborhoods safe. CVI strategies are proven, evidence-based solutions to gun violence, yet this administration decided they are inefficient.

After a gunman stormed the White House Correspondents' Dinner, President Trump didn't want gun safety reform. He wanted a ballroom. He wanted to keep himself and his billionaire donors safe while over 120 Americans continue to die every day.

House Republicans are complicit in the Trump agenda to endanger public safety. They are trying to jam through bills that would allow people to mail guns through the United States Postal Service, eliminate background checks, and allow domestic abusers to buy guns.

□ 1015

Make no mistake: They are making our country less safe.

I was proud to play an essential role in passing the first Federal gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years, but Americans cannot wait another 30 years for Congress to act.

We have lost daughters and sons, nephews and nieces, brothers and sisters, and mothers and fathers to gun violence.

One daughter's name was Hadiya Pendleton. Hadiya was a bright student, involved in marching band and volleyball. She was on top of the world when she led her marching band in President Obama's second inauguration. Just 1 week later, she was shot and killed in a park in Chicago.

Hadiya's friends and family started the Wear Orange movement to raise awareness of gun violence. Hunters wear orange to avoid being shot. Now, the color orange has become a beacon for action and advocacy against gun violence.

Today, I introduce the Wear Orange Resolution in honor of Hadiya and every victim of gun violence, just as I have since 2015.

I ran for office because I couldn't stand by and watch as Congress did nothing as children like Hadiya, those in Newtown—and I could go on and on and on—were killed, and also those that have been injured mentally and physically.

While gun violence became the leading cause of death for all children and teenagers in 2020, it has been the leading cause of death for Black children since 2006.

I swore my first oath of office a few months after Hadiya was shot in the Second District. Since then, I have never stopped fighting for victims and survivors of gun violence, and I never will. I will never give up this effort because this epidemic must end.

GARDEN GROVE HAZMAT CRISIS

(Mr. TRAN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the first responders who have worked tirelessly to respond to the hazmat crisis at the GKN Aerospace plant in Garden Grove.

Over Memorial Day weekend, our firefighters, police officers, and other emergency personnel worked around the clock to keep our community safe.

They quickly evacuated over 50,000 residents and businesses who could have been injured by a major explosion.

At the beginning of the crisis, our emergency officials were told that there were only two options: a disastrous explosion or a catastrophic leak. But to our public safety heroes, that was unacceptable, and they accomplished what was initially thought impossible. They neutralized the tank and got our neighbors back in their homes without any dangerous chemicals leaking into our water or air.

I especially thank Orange County Fire Authority Division Chief and Incident Commander Craig Covey, Fire Chief TJ McGovern, Garden Grove Police Chief Amir El-Farra, and Orange County Health Officer Dr. Regina Chinsio-Kwong.

Their leadership was instrumental in mitigating this crisis, and their communication to my office and my constituents was instrumental in keeping our community safe.

The evacuation was lifted last week, the incident has transitioned out of the emergency response phase, but we still need more.

While our community avoided catastrophic physical damage, 50,000 residents and 5,000 small businesses still face major hardship. Families had to spend their emergency funds on unplanned hotel stays, extra grocery runs, and extra supplies and medication.

Businesses lost multiple days of critical revenue over a holiday weekend. People who worked in the evacuation zone missed out on multiple days of wages because their workplace was forced to shut down.

We need to make them whole. I have called on the Small Business Administration to issue its own disaster declaration to open Federal resources for small businesses, and I am calling on GKN Aerospace to compensate the families and small businesses who have lost money because of their crisis.

GKN leadership informed me last night that they are establishing a \$3 million fund through United Way to provide relief for those with the greatest financial need.

While this decision is a necessary acknowledgment that they have broken faith with our community, it is insufficient. Every family and small business that was displaced or shut down during this crisis deserves full compensation. I expressed that, and this is nonnegotiable.

It is not enough to just cut checks for the damage already done. We need to make sure that a crisis like this can never happen again. Today, I am advancing legislation to ensure that defense contractors notify the community they operate in of any hazardous chemicals that put residents at risk.

Beyond that, companies must submit to regular third-party audits of their safety practices. Industries must invest in the most advanced, safest technologies that mitigate the risks of a major accident.

Orange County was lucky. We had no deaths and no injuries, but the events in Longview, Washington, remind us of how devastating the worst-case scenario can be.

As my community was picking up the pieces of our hazmat disaster in Garden Grove, we heard the terrible news from the Nippon Dynawave Packaging Company: 11 people perished in a chemical explosion.

My prayers are with the families, and I join their community in the cause for justice and accountability.

In Orange County, the worst is over for now, but our community is still reeling. We need answers. We need accountability. We need justice. I am not going to stop fighting until my community gets the recourse they deserve.

RECOGNIZING COACH BARRY SEARCH

(Mr. MACKENZIE of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of my friend and a true Lehigh Valley legend, Coach Barry Search of Parkland High School.

For more than three decades, Coach Search helped shape the lives of countless student athletes. As the head softball coach, he led Parkland to seven conference championships, five district titles, and a Pennsylvania State championship in 2015. Along the way, he built a program known not only for its victories, but for instilling character, discipline, and teamwork in his players.

His service extends far beyond the softball field. Coach Search spent decades as a science teacher, assistant football coach, volunteer firefighter, and fire chief, dedicating his life to serving others.

As he retires, we thank Coach Search for his contributions to Parkland, South Whitehall Township, and our entire community.

RECOGNIZING ZINING FAN

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary student in our region, Emmaus High School junior, Zining Fan.

Recently, Zining became the first student in Emmaus High School history to compete at the Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair, one of the world's most prestigious STEM competitions, bringing

together more than 1,700 students from over 60 countries and territories.

After advancing through local and State competitions, Zining earned second place in the world in the mathematics division for his original research on knot projections, developing a new mathematical theorem that had never been established before.

His achievement reflects not only exceptional talent and dedication, but also the strength of STEM education in the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Zining, his family, his teachers, and the entire Emmaus High School community on this remarkable accomplishment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. PERCY H. DOUGHERTY

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Percy H. Dougherty of Wescosville, who passed away on May 17 at the age of 83.

Dr. Dougherty dedicated his life to education, public service, and the advancement of the Lehigh Valley. As a professor and department chair at Kutztown University, he mentored generations of students and helped shape the field of geography.

As a Lehigh County Commissioner for 28 years and a member of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for nearly four decades, he played a leading role in guiding the growth and development of our region.

Dr. Dougherty will be remembered for his intellect, dedication, and commitment to improving the community he called home.

As a friend, I also recognize he had a great sense of humor, and I always enjoyed speaking with him when I saw him at local events.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Anne; his sons, Robert and Thomas; his grandchildren; and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING WALTER RYBARCZIK

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Center Valley resident and World War II veteran Walter Rybarczik who recently celebrated his 105th birthday.

Walter served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a radio operator and gunner aboard B-24s in the Pacific theater. He flew dozens of dangerous missions in service to our Nation, demonstrating extraordinary courage and dedication.

As we recognize this remarkable milestone, we also honor a generation whose sacrifice, service, and patriotism helped secure the freedoms that we enjoy today.

As we recognize this remarkable milestone of Walter's 105th birthday, the people in the Lehigh Valley want to congratulate Walter and also thank him for his service to our country.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, this National Gun Violence Awareness Month, I rise today thinking about families in Ohio's 13th Congressional District, families whose lives were changed forever by gun violence.

One of those families is still grieving the loss of LaTeris Cook, a 27-year-old father of four who was killed during a mass shooting at a neighborhood block party in Akron just 2 years ago. What should have been a joyful summer gathering turned into chaos and tragedy. Twenty-eight people were shot. An entire community was and remains traumatized.

Megan Keleman was a recent college graduate who was killed in a Taco Bell drive-through in Tallmadge, Ohio. Her killer, a man who was not allowed to have guns, not only killed her but killed himself in a tragic situation. Her family now mourns her death by advocating for gun safety programs.

Another Akron family continues to carry the pain of losing Cortez Davis, Sr., who was shot and killed in 2021 while picking up a child for a birthday celebration. His mother, Delonda Glover, now works with antiviolence organizations in Akron to help prevent other families from experiencing the same heartbreak. She said something that captures the pain so many families carry after gun violence: "Losing a child is a different kind of hurt and pain." She is right.

Finally, my friend Ericka Weems was killed in 2020 in her home. The crime has gone unsolved, despite national attention. We lost a beloved friend, daughter, educator, and sister.

Because gun violence leaves permanent scars on families and communities long after the headlines fade, my heart goes out to the Cook family, the Glover family, the Keleman family, the Weems family, and every family in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and across the country who are trying to heal after losing loved ones to senseless and preventable violence.

While these tragedies occurred in my district, the truth is they could have happened anywhere in America: schools, grocery stores, movie theatres, workplaces, birthday parties, the United States Capitol. Too many Americans feel like a shooting can happen anywhere at any moment.

Already this year, our country has experienced more than 160 mass shootings. Last year alone, more than 24,000 Americans died by gun suicide.

Since 2020, firearms have been the leading cause of death for children and teenagers in the United States.

In my district, Akron police have responded to 562 calls involving shootings or shots fired through the end of April of this year. That is a 21 percent increase compared to the same time last year.

These are not just statistics. These are children, parents, friends, neighbors, entire communities being forced to rebuild again and again.

But to the people of my district and to the people across America, this

threat of living with gun violence every single day, I want to tell you this: It does not have to be this way. We can stop the cycle of violence.

Four years ago, Congress proved progress is possible when we passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most significant gun safety legislation in decades, because Democrats and Republicans came together to expand background checks, close the dangerous boyfriend loophole, crack down on illegal gun trafficking, invest in mental health services, strengthen school safety, and fund community intervention programs that are saving lives now.

□ 1030

Yet, there is so much more work to be done. It also shows that when Congress chooses courage over politics, we can make our communities safer.

Yet, today, instead of building on that progress, this administration is moving us backward. Just weeks ago, the Trump administration announced efforts to roll back key gun safety protections, including weakening enhanced background checks established under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, rescinding restrictions on stabilizing braces, and repealing the bump stock ban that President Trump himself put into place after the deadly Las Vegas shooting in 2017.

There are now even proposals that could make it easier to mail handguns through the postal system, opening the door to more gun trafficking and more dangerous weapons flowing into our communities.

Mr. Speaker, if you talk to any law enforcement agency, they will tell you that guns continue to create a problem for the work that they do every day. They encourage us to be smarter on gun safety regulations and ensuring that not only are the communities safer but that those who are sworn to protect and serve us can be safe in their communities, as well.

These rollbacks are a choice, Mr. Speaker, and my constituents cannot wait any longer. Americans are demanding action. They want safer schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. SYKES. They deserve leaders who are willing to put people over politics.

Mr. Speaker, this Gun Violence Awareness Month—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has again expired.

Mrs. SYKES.—as we remember families like the Cooks—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

HONORING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SERVICEMEMBERS

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)