

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of June as National Gun Violence Awareness Month.

As one Minnesotan wrote: "I am standing up for our children because we are adults. It is our responsibility to make them feel safe."

I have a stack of notes here from hundreds of Minnesotans who came together after the mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic School, demanding action; calling for commonsense reforms; expressing their grief, anguish, and frustration; and begging for their elected leaders to do something—anything—to respond to the tragedy that left an 8-year-old and a 10-year-old dead, hundreds more forever traumatized, and a community reeling.

What are we doing if we are not listening to the American people and not protecting our children? We need to listen to the American people. We need to act to keep our children safe. We need to ban assault weapons, bump stocks, and high-capacity magazine sales, get weapons of war off of our streets, invest in addressing our Nation's mental health crisis, and the list goes on.

There won't be one policy alone that will end this public health crisis, but what we can't do is nothing. There are so many steps that we could take immediately. Gun violence is an epidemic that has stained our country, and we are going in the wrong direction.

As our country faces hundreds of mass shootings every year, more mass shootings than any country on the face of the planet, the Trump administration is taking an ax to our Nation's gun safety laws and doing the dirty work of the big gun lobby, rolling back dozens of Federal safety regulations, making it easier for criminals to buy and ship guns, cutting funding, and abandoning critical gun violence prevention programs that keep our communities safe. They are doubling down on the number one killer of children in the United States of America.

Gun violence is preventable. Our children deserve to be our priority. They deserve to feel safe. They deserve adults who will act.

Every day we are here in Congress, we are creating the world that our children will inherit. We should be creating a world where children feel safe at school, where they can be healthy and thrive, not where they live in fear and see adults refusing to protect them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share some examples of what Minnesotans wrote:

"My students should not have to worry about being killed at school."

"I shouldn't have to worry about if my kids are safe at their school and daycare."

"My grandchildren go to school every day, and I worry they will be victims. I also am devastated they will live their school lives in fear."

This is tragic. This is heartbreaking, and this is preventable. It doesn't have to be this way. We don't have to live like this.

We could choose to take steps to make our children and our commu-

nities safer. We could create a world with far less gun violence, where people don't live in fear of it, if only Congress had the courage to act.

□ 1045

HONORING LIVES LOST IN SANDY, OREGON, TRAGEDY

(Ms. DEXTER of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lives lost in a horrific, senseless act of violence that took place in Sandy, Oregon, on May 31, 2026.

This is an ongoing investigation. More information will continue to come out in the days and weeks to come, but what we do know is that the Sandy Police Department responded to a domestic violence call that escalated into a deadly shooting that claimed the lives of 37-year-old Jenna Mary Overson, 70-year-old Mary Beth Overson, and 16-year-old Kobyn McClure, and left the entire community fearing for their lives and sheltering in place.

This horrific tragedy has left family, friends, and our entire community grieving from an unimaginable loss and shaken from, once again, senseless violence.

What has stayed with me this week, as our community has begun to process this tragedy, is Kobyn McClure's courage, which deserves to be known far beyond Sandy.

Kobyn was a kind, respectful, and compassionate young man who stepped forward to protect young children in the face of unimaginable fear and danger. Loved ones and community members have shared that his actions during this tragedy helped save the lives of children caught in the middle of this violence.

Though only 16 years old, Kobyn demonstrated a level of bravery and selflessness that many aspire to throughout their entire lives. His actions reflected the very best of our shared values: courage, sacrifice, and a commitment to protecting others, a commitment that Congress would be well to follow.

Kobyn's family, friends, classmates, and neighbors remember him as a young man with a bright future, generous spirit, and heart for others. His legacy will endure through the lives touched and the example he has set for us all.

Jenna Mary Overson was a devoted mother remembered by her friends for her generosity, kindness, and unwavering commitment to her children and loved ones. Her loss leaves an immeasurable, unimaginable void in the lives of those who knew her.

Mary Beth Overson was a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, whose family and community now mourn a loss that cannot be measured.

Amid this tragedy, we are reminded of the extraordinary dedication of our

law enforcement officers and first responders. Members of the Sandy Police Department, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, medical personnel, and assisting agencies responded swiftly to a dangerous and evolving situation. One Sandy police officer, Sergeant Garrett Thornton, was seriously wounded multiple times by gunshots while responding to protect others and confront the threat.

We are grateful for the bravery and professionalism demonstrated by every officer, deputy, firefighter, paramedic, and emergency responder who put themselves in harm's way to protect the people of Sandy.

The Sandy community has shown remarkable strength in the days since. Neighbors have come together to grieve, heal, and stand beside one another. Sandy is showing us and the whole country what it looks like to hold together through the unthinkable.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Jenna Mary Overson, Mary Beth Overson, and Kobyn McClure by recognizing Kobyn's extraordinary heroism, thanking the first responders who put themselves in harm's way, and keeping the entire Sandy community in our hearts as they continue to heal.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVANS of Colorado) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Call us together, O God, into the embrace of Your everlasting arms. Whoever we are, whatever we bring with us, hold us near to You that You would, in Your mercy, forgive our shortcomings and, in Your all-sufficient grace, mend our imperfections.

And even as You work within us individually, move among us as a body. As we come together, we bring with us a multitude of concerns, the best and the worst of intentions, and the full spectrum of desired outcomes. Take the breadth of our disparate perspectives and competing agendas and make us see that our mutual goal should always be for the building up of this body and the betterment of the Nation we serve.

Move Your spirit over the waters of our discord. You, who are the author

not of confusion, but of peace, bring us to order under the authority of Your divine will.

Lord, hear our prayers, forgive our sin, establish the work of our hands, and heal our land.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the Chamber the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. GRIJALVA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. GRIJALVA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING SERGEANT MARTIN LUGO

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

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Martin Lugo, a 24-year-old veteran from Tucson, Arizona, who was killed after being wounded during a combat operation in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Lugo enlisted in the United States Army while still a student at Tucson High School. At the time of his death, he was serving on his sixth deployment, having previously completed three tours in Afghanistan and two in Iraq. He served our Nation with extraordinary courage, dedication, and a deep sense of duty.

But Martin was far more than his uniform. He was a son, a friend, and someone deeply loved by his family, friends, and fellow soldiers. Those who knew him remember his generosity, humor, intelligence, adventurous spirit, and his remarkable ability to bring people together. He embraced life fully and led with both strength and compassion.

I also thank Maria, his mother, for allowing me to share Martin's story today.

As we remember Sergeant Martin Lugo, we honor his life, his service, and the sacrifice carried every day by the families of those who serve.

In Maria's words: "The way we can honor their service is by doing the best we can for ourselves, for each other, and for our country."

PROTECT TRANS LIVES

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

Mr. MENEFEE. Mr. Speaker, June is Pride Month, a month celebrating the contributions of the LGBTQ community, but it also must be a month of speaking hard truths.

Texas has more anti-trans murders than any other State in the Nation. Over half of Texas victims are Black transgender women.

We cannot celebrate Marsha P. Johnson and not protect the women who look like her.

Last week, Persia Amarra Conway was killed in Houston. She was 33 years old. She was loved, and she is not alone. Jade Roberts, Diamond Brigman, Muhlaysia Booker, name after name after name, were all from Texas, all taken from this Earth, stripped from their loved ones and from their communities.

These killings are happening across our country, and silence is not an option. This Pride Month, I say clearly: We must stop the targeting and killing of members of the trans community in Houston, in Texas, and across our Nation.

BOBBY KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, 58 years ago this night, in Los Angeles, California, a violent murder occurred. That night, in the Ambassador Hotel, a major candidate for President, Robert F. Kennedy, Sr., was assassinated and denied the right to complete his campaign. No one knows what alternate history might have played out had Bobby lived.

I was 14 years old at the time when my father woke me to go with him to see the breaking news on TV in the middle of the night.

Two months before, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered much the same way.

If you are under the age of 60, you don't remember either night. It is a matter of historic reference, not lived experience.

After the King assassination, I remember hearing on the radio the voice of my United States Senator from New York say: "No one can be certain who next will suffer from some senseless act of bloodshed." In 60 days, we found out who was next.

Columbine, Parkland, Charlie Kirk, Sandy Hook, Islamic Temple of San Diego, Temple Israel in Detroit, time after time. When gun violence claims

innocent lives, some Americans still assert their right to hold highly destructive weapons as necessary for their protection under the Second Amendment rights. They resist any and all gun control. Nothing protects them from the madman who gains access to the weapon.

We treat these deaths as unfortunate outcomes of our society's ideological unwillingness to rein in weapons of destruction.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad tale told over six decades and counting.

HONORING COLMAN MCCARTHY

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary Colman McCarthy, an accomplished writer, philosopher of nonviolence, Catholic activist, educator, golfer, and runner, who cut a singular figure in Montgomery County, Maryland, and in the Washington, D.C., area.

Colman spent his life and his career challenging war, militarism, and what President Eisenhower called the military-industrial complex, writing every week a column that was beloved by thousands of people.

But Colman was not always a famed peace activist. He nearly became a PGA champion and also a Trappist monk before finding his life's work as an educator for peace.

Students who took his classes at BCC High School remember him coming to school on his Raleigh three-speed bicycle and the only homework assignment he ever gave his students: to tell someone that you love them that day.

I hope his memory remains an eternal blessing to our community and a source of joy and comfort to his three sons, John, James, and Edward; his six beloved grandchildren; and to all of his many students, friends, and admirers, among whom I count myself.

A link honoring the life and career of Colman McCarthy can be found at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/09/business/media/colman-mccarthy-dead.html>.

HONORING DAVIS "YELLOWASH" WASHINES

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of the esteemed elder, Davis Washines, known to many as "Yellowash," of the Yakama Nation.

Washines was a Yakama citizen who took on many roles in his community. He served as police chief, was a fierce advocate for fishing rights and the environment, and was chairman of the Yakama Nation Council.

I had the honor of working with him throughout the years on issues, including Tribal rights and law enforcement,