concerned leadership that will save American lives. She knows all too well the cost that gun violence takes on our communities and on our families. Like many who serve in this House, she is someone who has attended funerals, comforted, and continues to comfort so many sisters and brothers because of gun violence.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. KELLY for yielding. Ms. KELLY has been such a stalwart voice for all who are all too often forgotten in what we are seeing happen in this country, a voice for those who are not lost, because sometimes we say “lost to gun violence.” These are not lives that are lost. These are lives that are ripped from us, taken from us, brutally ended.

In the 5 years since the horrific shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, in my district, 170,000 Americans have been taken from us, sons and daughters of this great country, 170,000 souls. We should just reflect on that that means, what each and every one of those people might have done if they had lived.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative KELLY for being a tireless voice, which we needed in these challenging times.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago tonight, it was cold and snowy in Connecticut. The families of Newtown had picked up their children from school. They were getting ready for the holidays. It was already dark, cold, no one having any thought on December 12 that, in 2 days, their lives—and America’s lives—would be changed by the reality of what gun violence has done and is doing to this country.

So, tonight, I want to read the names of the 20 children and six educators who were brutally gunned down and murdered in Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut:

Charlotte Bacon, Daniel Barden, Rachel Davi, Daniel Heslin, Ana Marquez-Greene, Dylan Hockley, Dawn Hochsprung, Madeleine Hsu, Catherine Hubbard, Chase Kowalski, Jesse Lewis, James Mattioli, Grace McDonnell, Anne Marie Murphy, Emilie Parker, Jack Pinto, Noah Pozner, Caroline Previdi, Jessica Rekos, Avielle Richman, Lauren Rousseau, Mary Sherlach, Victoria Soto, Benjamin Wheeler, and Allison Wyatt.

Mr. Speaker, we can and we must do better in this great country. We can and we must do better for all those who have been taken from us. We must do better by taking action in this, the people’s House.

The people are watching, the people are waiting, and they deserve that we do our best—no more. To them, they will say with words and silence and prayers, important as those are, but to honor, even more importantly, by taking action to save future lives.

Again, my thanks and my admiration to Representative KELLY for her extraordinary leadership and persistence.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ESTY for her words, her commitment, and her voice in making sure that those 26 lives will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I have been reading names for nearly half an hour, and we still have stacks and stacks of names—the names of American lives that we are waiting, and they deserve that we do nothing to stop it.

Children are murdered in their kindergarten classroom and we remain silent. Mothers and their children are killed in Chicago parking lots and we still do not act.

Hadiya Pendleton, a smart, charming, and talented young woman who performed at Barack Obama’s inauguration has been resting for nearly 5 years. How much longer must she wait, Mr. Speaker?

Country concerts, nightclubs, and even a congressional baseball practice have been shooting galleries, and the majority callously often calls for thoughts and prayers and moments of silence.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to crawl out from under the gun lobby checkbook and do something—anything—to save American lives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BEATTY, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY for tonight’s special order hour on gun violence.

Congresswoman KELLY is a stalwart leader against gun violence and serves as a visible, out-front advocate for putting an end to the gun violence epidemic.

Far too many children, families, and communities have been devastated and destroyed by a gun inappropriately in the hands of a shooter. We have seen far too many deaths, too many young African-Americans with guns, too many killed by guns.

My district in Central Ohio has seen an alarming rise in gun violence.

Just this week, Columbus saw its 130th homicide of the year, which is closing in on an all-time record.

We have seen far too many deaths, too many young African-Americans with guns, too many killed by guns.

My district in Central Ohio has seen an alarming rise in gun violence.

Just this week, Columbus saw its 130th homicide of the year, which is closing in on an all-time record.

We can and must do better.

I stand with Congresswoman KELLY in her relentless efforts, calling on the Congress to honor victims through action.

We can join together to pass commonsense gun laws—background checks; no fly-no buy; and safety locks.

Gun violence is a health epidemic—one that we cannot address in isolation.

We must fund mental health programs, we must address the needs of urban communities, and we must provide sustainable community and economic development initiatives to reduce violence—like community policing coupled with commonsense gun reforms.

Tonight, Congresswoman KELLY puts a face on the victims of gun violence. I join and salute her for that brave lesson.

As we read the names, let us remember that, gun violence isn’t a Democrat or Republican issue—it is an American issue requiring an American solution.