

to a case in which a national bank has no branches in a second State.

HONORING THOSE FIRE FIGHTERS, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO CONTAINED THE LOGAN VALLEY MALL FIRE IN ALTOONA, PA ON DECEMBER 16, 1994

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of people who exemplified the utmost professionalism and courage in their efforts to battle the devastating Logan Valley Mall fire in Altoona, PA during the early hours of Friday, December 16, 1994. These firefighters, emergency personnel, and volunteers all came together in a desperate time of need to contain this fire which has left an everlasting impression on the Altoona economy and its people. Over 300 firefighters, from 63 departments, stationed in Blair and four surrounding counties were called upon to extinguish the fire. Considering the fact that there are 81,000 firefighters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 73,000 of which are volunteer, one can realize the magnitude of this fire by the number of personnel involved. Along with these numerous firefighters were emergency assistance workers and volunteers on site to provide any needed support throughout the ordeal. I applaud the job done by the local police, sheriffs, dispatch centers, and community organizations which all played a part during the fire and the aftermath.

Due to the quick action by all of the participating fire departments the powerful blaze was contained, saving a majority of the mall stores, and even allowing a handful to reopen in the following days. Hopefully, the reconstruction of the mall will be completed by the fall of 1995 thanks in part to this team of people.

I know I speak for everyone involved in this tragedy when I say that without the support and cooperation demonstrated by this crew of professionals and volunteers the damage sustained from the fire surely would have been greater, and we are all very thankful that no one was seriously injured from the dangerous blaze. In fact, with hundreds of people on the scene, only one minor injury was reported. Even though a disaster such as this is never welcome, it is reassuring to know that there are top notch emergency services in central Pennsylvania, committed to a profession in which they face life and death situations every time that station bell goes off.

I hope that in the future our communities will be able to maintain the necessary resources needed to maintain such readiness when called into action in times of serious emergencies. The Altoona region is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated fire and rescue service on hand.

IN MEMORIAL: SHANNON LOWNEY AND LEANNE NICHOLS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the violence continues and the death toll rises once again. In the wake of the recent clinic violence in Massachusetts, 25-year-old Shannon Elizabeth Lowney and 38-year-old Leanne Nichols are dead, five people are injured, and an entire Nation sits paralyzed by fear and shock.

I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to the families of Shannon and Leanne. To them we offer this promise: We will not allow these women's lives to be lost in vain and we will not allow their sacrifice to be dismissed as mere casualties of a political conflict. These were not combatants—these were health care professionals. They were brutally murdered by those that seek to do through terrorism what they can never do through the ballot box.

The time has come for an end to clinic violence. An end to the lame excuses offered on behalf of the offenders. An end to the fear that grips professionals, patients, and ordinary Americans throughout our Nation. An end to the sick belief that violence will reap political empowerment.

Our Nation must act quickly to bring to justice both the assassins and those who incite them. Make no mistake: There is no greater threat to our national security today than the domestic terrorists roaming America under the cover of anti-choice politics. Dr. David Gunn, Dr. John Bayard Britton, Lt. Col. James Barrett, Shannon Elizabeth Lowney, and Leanne Nichols are gone forever, but their cause, the cause of freedom, lives on in all of us.

Our challenge is clear, our resolve unwavering, and our cause is just. We pause now to remember those who have died, but we will not give up our freedoms and we will not capitulate to terrorism. These women expect better of us, and better we must do to honor their memory.

THE ANTI-COP-KILLER BULLET ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would impose a tax and import controls on bullets expressly designed to penetrate the bulletproof vests of law enforcement personnel.

This legislation, the Anti-Cop-Killer Bullet Act, would impose the same tax which currently exists on controlled firearms, such as submachine guns and sawed-off shotguns, to high-technology cop killer bullets like the rhino and black talon bullet. If enacted, the bullet manufacturer would be taxed at the rate of \$200 for each bullet—a tax so high that the bullet obviously would never be produced.

Over 10 years ago, a Teflon-coated bullet designed to pierce soft body armor was introduced. Due to strong public reaction, Congress in 1986 enacted the very first law to ban

a round of ammunition. Since then other bullets manufactured from different materials but designed with the same purpose have been introduced. Only after threatening or actually carrying out our threat to ban these cop-killer bullets, have we in Congress been successful at stopping them from reaching our streets.

However, as soon as we in Congress go through the motions of preventing a cop-killer bullet from going into production, along comes another manufacturer with a new bullet designed to penetrate protective armor. This pattern will continue as long as bullet manufacturers are allowed to exploit the loophole that exists in the 1986 law banning cop-killer bullets. Under the law, only metal alloy and Teflon-coated bullets were singled out leaving the door wide open for companies such as the Signature Products Corporation to develop plastic-based ammunition like the rhino bullet.

My legislation would prevent these unscrupulous bullet manufacturers from taking advantage of this loophole in existing Federal law. Rather than attempting to add another amendment to the 1986 law, the Anti-Cop-Killer Bullet Act proposes an across-the-board tax on all bullets expressly manufactured or advertised to penetrate normal quality bulletproof vests worn by law enforcement personnel. The tax at \$200 per bullet would surely make the business of manufacturing cop-killer bullets an economic impossibility.

America's law enforcement officers are already out-gunned as it is. Having to worry about a bullet piercing their protective armor should be the last thing on their mind.

By passing the Anti-Cop-Killer Bullet Act, we will be giving our law enforcement the support they need. I urge my colleagues to join with me to pass this legislation so that we can prevent these cop-killer bullets from endangering the lives of America's law enforcement officers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to commend the League of Women Voters for their recently celebrated 75th anniversary, which we recognized in Syracuse last month with a ceremony and exhibit at our beloved Erie Canal Museum.

The league has steadfastly dedicated itself to informing voters about the choices they have and the process they are most certainly a part of.

It is fitting that our celebration in Syracuse was held at the Canal Museum, inside a symbol of our regional—and in fact our national—history and our local heritage. Decisions by elected government are by their nature best made after consultation with an informed citizenry. Just as the Erie Canal was the work of governmental leaders enlightened by a populace requiring economic salvation, so too is democracy exercised best when groups such as the League of Women Voters have done their work.

My personal experience with the Syracuse Metro League has been positive. I believe I have benefited by their efforts. They have