

days of our essential values and responsibilities as a free and open people.

RECOGNIZING MILLER'S VETS

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miller's Vets, an organization in my district committed to supporting homeless veterans, and express my appreciation for the service and sacrifice our veterans have made on behalf of our country.

Miller's Vets was founded by Robert Miller, Sr., a former St. Joseph County Superior Court judge and a retired lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve, who began the organization to instill confidence and create opportunities for local veterans.

Veterans in the program participate in various services, including color guard, flag raising, and parade marches. Miller's Vets also created a military honors funeral program comprised of 14 local veterans who have been trained to perform honor guard duty at funerals. This program partners with local funeral homes to provide full military service funerals to certain veterans without family or adequate finances to pay for their expenses.

Simply put, Mr. Speaker, Miller's Vets restores the honor that these men and women deserve. I am grateful to Miller's Vets for their dedication to providing dignity and hope to our bravest and finest.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Miller's Vets for their tireless dedication to helping and honoring our local veterans.

CLOSING THE TERRORIST GUN LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern for the safety of our country and urge colleagues to act today on sensible gun safety legislation. Time after time, House Republicans have denied any discussion of voting on a measure that will close a dangerous loophole that currently allows suspects on the FBI's terrorist watch list to buy guns. Last week alone, House Republicans voted not one time, not two, but three times to block debate on the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Terrorists Act.

According to a report by the Government Accountability Office, since 2004, more than 2,000 suspects on the FBI's terrorist watch list have successfully purchased weapons in the United States. More than 90 percent of all suspected terrorists who attempted to buy a gun walked away with the weapon of their choice.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is just common sense: if you are too dangerous to fly, then you are too dangerous to buy a

gun. We must do all that we can to prevent senseless acts of violence in our communities and bring this legislation to a vote today.

RECOGNIZING ONE OF MINNESOTA'S FINEST FAMILIES

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor and to honor all Minnesotans and all Americans who served in World War II. I would like to recognize the service of one Minnesota family in particular.

In 1885, Carl Nolte moved to Martin County, Minnesota, with his wife, Louise. They had 12 children and numerous grandchildren. An impressive 36 members of the Nolte family joined the Armed Forces and served in World War II. Fortunately, all 36 family members survived the war. However, two were wounded during their service.

It is often said that those who served in World War II belong to the Greatest Generation. I believe that the heroism and the dedication that this family demonstrated proves this to be true.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank this Minnesota family for their service to our Nation, and I would also like to wish one of them a very happy birthday. This week Loren Wessel of Truman, Minnesota, turns 96 years old. Happy birthday, Loren.

DENYING FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES TO DANGEROUS TERRORISTS ACT

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week, House Republicans voted three times to block debate on Republican Congressman PETER KING's Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, which would close the outrageous loophole that allows suspects who are on the FBI's terrorist watch list to purchase weapons.

Mr. Speaker, 2,000 suspects on the FBI's watch list tried to buy weapons in the U.S. in the last 11 years, and 91 percent of them walked away with a weapon.

Democrats remain committed to blocking dangerous people from having guns. Eighty percent of gun owners support this. It is a bipartisan effort. PETER KING from the Republican Conference wrote this legislation, yet Republicans and the leadership blocked a chance for us to have a simple yes-or-no vote on what most Americans think would be logical, commonsense ways to keep us safe.

Seriously? Terrorist watch list? Buy a gun of your choice whenever you want? We are better than that. This Congress needs to act. I urge my colleagues to join me in stopping this nonsense.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHANCELLOR EUGENE MCKAY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' great educators, Chancellor Eugene McKay of Arkansas State University at Beebe. He will be retiring in January after 50 years of service to our State's educational system, particularly in helping assure a ready, skilled workforce.

Chancellor McKay has displayed an unrelenting commitment to education in Arkansas that has been a beacon for quality higher education at Arkansas State University.

First as a professor and then as the chancellor, Dr. McKay was responsible for the university's recognition of having the highest student success rate in Arkansas among both 2- and 4-year institutions.

He has been honored for this work as an educator by the Beebe Chamber of Commerce, that also presented him their lifetime achievement award.

Chancellor McKay made an indelible impact on the lives of Arkansans, faculty, alumni, students, and all of our communities. We will miss him. I extend him my warmest regards and best wishes for his retirement.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT RENEWAL

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, you have told us over and over again that the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act will be passed in this year.

Well, the clock is running out. The time is here to live up to our pledge that "we will never forget." We lost 3,000 innocent people on 9/11, but thousands more lost their health care and are sick and dying. They are coming to this Congress praying for their health care.

It is a national disgrace that we have not responded to our responders. Yet everyone agrees. Leaders on both sides of the aisle have pledged to do this before the end of the year. Yet, even when we all agree, we still seem to do nothing. As Jon Stewart so succinctly put it: Congress has become the last responders.

It is time for the last responders to respond to the first responders and give them the health care and support they so justly deserve.

CONGRATULATING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND COACH DALE WEINER

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, on Friday evening this past Friday, the 5A Division 1 playoffs occurred in high school football in Louisiana, and my high school alma mater of Catholic High in Baton Rouge played against our distinguished majority whip's Catholic high school, the Archbishop Rummel High School.

This was a great game, Madam Speaker, where it went on to the fourth quarter where things were tied up with only a few seconds left with both sides praying, I am sure. We had a little bit of intervention here. And while there is a chance, Madam Speaker, that this poster was fabricated, I assure you that the win that Catholic High had over Archbishop Rummel was very, very real, and the values that each of these schools instill upon their students is also very real.

I want to congratulate Coach Dale Weiner, Catholic High School Bears out of Baton Rouge, and Coach Weiner's over 300 wins in high school football.

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RENEW THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, just hours before last week's shooting, I stood in this very same spot and called on Congress to renew the assault weapons ban, which expired in 2004.

Shortly after the shooting in San Bernadino, we learned that one of the weapons used was an AR-15, capable of unloading 800 rounds per minute or 13 rounds per second. Just a week earlier, a gunman in Colorado Springs used an AK-47-style weapon.

We need to get these weapons of war out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. It is easy to say criminals and terrorists will always find a way to get a gun, but certainly we don't need to make it easier for these individuals to get guns capable of killing dozens of innocent people within seconds.

There are simple steps we can take today to address this issue without denying a person's Second Amendment rights. We can start by making sure someone convicted of a violent crime can't buy a gun by exploiting a loophole and prevent someone on the terrorist watch list from buying a gun. If you are too dangerous to get on a plane, you are too dangerous to walk into a gun store and buy an assault weapon or any other gun.

We need to start somewhere to address this epidemic if we have any hope of reducing gun violence in this country. Getting assault weapons out of the hands of criminals and potential terrorists is a good place to start.

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of national Computer Science Education Week. Established in 2009 to coincide with the birthday of one of the first women in the field of computer science, Grace Murray Hopper, Computer Science Education Week provides a unique opportunity to connect students with opportunities in the computing fields. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that in the year 2020, there will be roughly 10 million jobs in STEM fields. Of those, half are expected to be in computing and information technology.

Despite these opportunities, there is a substantial shortage of individuals with skills needed to fill computing jobs. The more we can expose and engage our students in computer science programs, the better prepared they will be for the jobs in the 21st century.

This week, Representative SUZAN DELBENE of Washington, my co-chair on the Congressional Women's High Tech Caucus, and I introduced House Resolution 554 to encourage schools, parents, and our colleagues to support computer science education, participate in an Hour of Code event this week, and join this national movement in computer science education.

GUN VIOLENCE AND THE TERRORIST WATCH LIST

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, mass shootings have become daily occurrences in this country. There were 355 mass shootings in the first 336 days of this year.

Americans are understandably shaken. As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to enact policies to protect and defend them.

It is unbelievable that an individual on the terrorist watch list can walk into any gun shop and buy the firearm of their choice. That is completely legal right now, and law enforcement has no ability to stop it.

We all know that our weak gun laws in this country have failed for decades to protect innocent lives. We have a long way to go in reversing the deadly damage done by the lobbying efforts of the NRA, but this is a good place to start.

Closing this glaring loophole is common sense. It is not a cure-all for all gun violence in this Nation, but it is a step in the right direction.

I am calling on Speaker PAUL RYAN to bring H.R. 1076, the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act of 2015, up for a vote immediately.

The American people are calling us to do something, and we can start now.

VENEZUELA ELECTIONS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Venezuela on their democratic victory this weekend.

Voters at the polls sent a clear message to the corrupt Maduro regime: We reject your policies and support a return to true democracy, as well as an end to an economic system that has bankrupted an otherwise wealthy nation.

Despite lopsided electoral conditions, state-imposed censorship, and intimidation tactics, the democratic opposition overcame many obstacles to gain control of the National Assembly. But there is still much work that remains to be done. All political prisoners must be freed, including pro-democracy leader Leopoldo Lopez.

There are still a few contestant seats without a winner announced that are very important to the final outcome of the election.

I urge a speedy and transparent declaration of the winners and a full adjudication process for any disputed contests that can occur in certain races.

Congratulations to the people of Venezuela for a great victory.

CLOSE THE TERRORIST GUN LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't allow terrorists who want to kill innocent Americans to have easy access to guns. It is just that simple, and that is just common sense.

Yet, any individual on the no-fly list considered too dangerous to get on a plane can walk into any gun store in America and walk out with a weapon of their choice.

We are facing an epidemic of gun violence in this country, yet House Republican leadership is unwilling to even close the most dangerous loophole like this one that exists today.

Speaker RYAN has said that "keeping America safe should not be a partisan issue." I strongly agree. We should set politics aside and do what is right for the American people by passing commonsense gun laws and stopping senseless acts of violence in our communities.

The cost of inaction in Congress is borne by thousands of mourning families here in America.

It is time for Congress to step up and take meaningful action by closing the terrorist gun loophole and keeping dangerous people from buying guns.

GOLDEN SPOON

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two outstanding