

a hotel or airplane ticket, but your Boricua nation needs you to represent.

I ask everyone who is watching today or who sees my remarks online to commit yourself to joining me and others in Lafayette Square on October 9 in Washington, D.C. It is up to us. It is up to you.

President Obama has done so much to address injustice, to address unfair prison sentences for nonviolent offenses, to address the inherent injustice that all too often characterizes our system of justice. I thank him and praise him for that.

In this case, with this elder statesman of the Puerto Rican diaspora for this nonviolent, exemplary inmate, for this father and war hero, for Oscar Lopez Rivera, we respectfully say enough is enough—ya basta. Free Oscar Lopez Rivera.

#### 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 26th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Twenty-six years ago this month, this landmark legislation was put into effect to eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities. This month, organizations and advocacy groups across my district in central New York are coordinating events to recognize this milestone and the significance of the ADA to so many in our community.

In my district, ARISE—the designated independent living center for Cayuga, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties—is vital to our local efforts to ensure that people of all abilities live fully integrated and self-directed lives. ARISE provides an array of services to assist central New Yorkers, including my brother-in-law, with disabilities and to help ensure that our local communities are inclusive for people of all abilities.

While the ADA has been in law for 26 years now, our work in Congress continues today. I am a proud cosponsor of the IDEA Full Funding Act to help remove barriers for children with disabilities and to expand special education services. And I will continue to be supportive of efforts in the House to ensure people with all abilities are provided opportunities and independence.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, 3 weeks ago today, House Democrats conducted a sit-in to demand a commonsense debate and votes on gun violence. Americans gath-

ered around their televisions, computers, and phones and rooted for this Congress to do the right thing.

Across the country, families demanded that this body take up two commonsense measures to reduce our country's epidemic of gun violence. Phones in our offices throughout Capitol Hill were ringing off the hook. Thousands of Americans—students, teachers, grieving parents, strangers to the political process—saw something that inspired and excited them, and they picked up the phone because they had hope. Their message: Thank you for fighting for us. Make sure something is done.

What did this Congress do with that hope? Well, instead of allowing a vote to expand background checks to keep Americans safe, instead of allowing a vote to close the terrorist gun loophole, instead of even having a debate on gun safety, the Speaker turned his back on the American people and sent the House home early.

Since Orlando, hundreds have died from gun violence. Just in the streets of Chicago, more than 300 people have been hurt or killed by guns in the last month. An average of 91 Americans are killed every day by guns.

There was a time when unthinkable violence and mass shootings shook our Nation to its core, and our elected leaders would find a way to bring us together like the bipartisan calls we heard for unity in Dallas yesterday. They would struggle to get it right, but ultimately they would and save lives.

It happened 82 years ago with the New Deal for Crime. It happened 48 years ago with major gun violence reforms. And it happened 23 years ago when Americans stood up to the powerful gun lobby and passed the Brady Handgun Violence Program. Each time, a frustrated, grieving, but determined Nation took a stand together to say enough is enough.

It has been 23 years since our country passed any meaningful gun violence legislation. Since then, gun-related crimes have claimed more American lives than AIDS, war, and illegal drug overdoses combined. Since Newtown, tens of thousands of lives have been lost to this deadly crisis. The number of bills that have been debated and passed by this Congress to prevent these deaths remains at zero.

This Republican Congress may find comfort in remaining silent, in doing the bidding of the NRA, in turning its back on our people. But our inaction disserves our constituents and the tens of thousands of families who have lost loved ones to gun violence. Millions more worry that they and their families are not safe. And if mothers can't sleep at night knowing their children are safe from harm, neither should this Congress.

I challenge my colleagues who have been silent on gun violence to engage their communities when they go home, to try and find a way to reject the gun lobby's heavy hand and bring the will

of the American people to this body and to help us reduce gun fatalities.

The number of Americans who are resolved to taking steps to reduce gun violence is growing. I ask my colleagues to take stock of their solemn duty to keep families safe from harm. I ask them to take stock of history. Do not bet against the American people. Stand with us to end Congress' deadly silence.

#### INEQUITABLE BUSINESS PRACTICE IN AUSTRALIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, last year, I spoke on the House floor about my serious concerns about the Export-Import Bank's interference of energy companies and the country of Australia.

In 2013, the Export-Import Bank approved a loan of \$640 million in financing for U.S. equipment to develop an open-pit iron ore mine in Australia. The mine is owned by the wealthiest woman in Australia. This is not an appropriate use of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

According to unions, public officials, and the Iron Mining Association, these subsidies threaten to displace nearly \$600 million worth of U.S. iron ore exports and cause a reduction of \$1.2 billion in domestic sales.

Today, injustice toward U.S. companies in Australia has been continued regarding a Florida company, APR. APR constructed an \$80 million power plant in western Australia to help the people and businesses of western Australia.

Once the power-generation facility was almost built, an Australian bank, ANZ Bank, seized the power plant, even though it had no legal title or ownership interest in the plant. It claimed an ownership interest in the plant based on an unfair law in Australia which is unique to that country. This incredibly unfair Australian legislation allows U.S. companies and U.S. banks to lose their title or lien interest to their own assets, even though the Australian companies and banks are expressly barred from doing so by contracts they signed with U.S. companies.

APR lost its \$80 million power plant, lost the use of equipment and ability to generate electricity for western Australians, and lost the revenue associated with the plant. That power plant and revenue was wrongfully taken by the bank.

Australia legislates that U.S. companies that lease assets in Australia are at peril of losing their assets based on this unfair and inequitable law. This law is called the Personal Property Securities Act and is contrary to the basic right to own and possess private property guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution and the fundamental right to due process and equal protection, also guaranteed under the U.S.

Constitution. This law has the demonstrated ability, such as with APR, and the potential to seriously harm many other U.S. businesses and U.S. interests in Australia and must be immediately addressed.

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Last night I conducted a telephone townhall meeting in my district and was asked by a constituent about the status of the Trans-Pacific Partnership legislation. This matter is important and topical for us because of the pending Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement which the Obama administration is supporting and many in Congress are pushing for a vote on soon, such as this year.

Laws like the Australian Personal Property Securities Act should make it very difficult for any Member of Congress to vote for the Trans-Pacific Partnership. If Australia is going to continue to be our trading partner, there must be a level playing field for all parties involved. U.S. companies cannot be at a disadvantage when they do business in Australia or any other country.

I strongly encourage our U.S. Trade Representative to address the situation so an inequity caused to APR and the potential inequities presented for other U.S. companies be corrected before a vote is called on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

#### COMMEMORATING OFFICER BRENT THOMPSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Madam Speaker, to protect and serve isn't just a slogan on the side of police cars all across the country. It is a promise—a promise that our men and women in blue keep every day as they serve to uphold the law and order in our cities and our towns. Without their bravery and sacrifice, our communities would be lawless and our families, our friends, and our loved ones would be in constant danger.

I can't adequately express the sadness I felt last week when five Dallas police officers were targeted as victims in a horrific ambush simply for choosing to put on their uniform and to protect their community. Among the officers whose lives were unjustly taken was DART Police Department Officer Brent Thompson, who was a resident of Royse City in my home district. It just breaks my heart that this brave man's life was mercilessly and needlessly cut short at 43 years of age just because he reported for duty simply wanting to do his job.

So I join the greater Dallas community, the Fourth District of Texas, and our entire country in mourning over the loss of Officer Thompson, as we remember him for his selfless commitment to our country. His family remains in our prayers, and we will be forever grateful to him for his service.

Officer Thompson, you will not be forgotten. Your memory will continue to inspire us to stand up for those who stand up for us because this violence targeted towards our police officers is unacceptable, it is outrageous, and it needs to stop.

#### RAISING ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, every month should be Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, and I rise today to share my efforts to help Alzheimer's patients and their families. Having lost my mother due to complications from Alzheimer's, I am all too familiar with how it impacts the patient and their loved ones.

I continue to push for more NIH research funding because it represents our best chance to save lives and restore hope to millions of families. I am a cosponsor of Congressman ELIOT ENGEL's Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act, a bill to make sure that Alzheimer's patients receive the care and the compassion they deserve and they need.

I am also a cosponsor of Congressman CHRIS SMITH's HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, to help families and caregivers plan for the costs and complications of Alzheimer's.

I urge all of my colleagues and the public to join together with the Alzheimer's Association in supporting these efforts to fight this tragic disease.

#### SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS THROUGH NATURE LINKS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the efforts that the one nonprofit organization that is based in my south Florida district is making on behalf of young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Nature Links for Lifelong Learning is forming a valuable national model of education and inclusion for south Florida. For far too long, many young adults with an autism spectrum disorder, Asperger's, or Down syndrome have been forgotten as they were released into the world following their time in the public school system, but Nature Links has exceptional skills-based educational training which works to identify the character of each individual's unique identity and takes the time to tap into each student's potential to develop civically engaged, job-ready, and fully functioning adults.

I congratulate Nature Links on its contributions to our south Florida community, and I urge everyone to learn more by visiting their Web site at [www.naturelinks.net](http://www.naturelinks.net).

#### CELEBRATING VIZCAYA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 100th anniversary

of the completion of the main house at Vizcaya on the shores of Biscayne Bay in my fabulous south Florida congressional district.

Since 1916, Vizcaya has served as a south Florida landmark and a symbol of Old World elegance and cultural influence. Unfortunately, James Deering, the former vice president of International Harvester and the visionary founder of Vizcaya, died in 1925 before his plans for the estate were completed in full.

Now, as part of the Miami-Dade County Parks system, the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens preserves some of south Florida's early history among significant collections of orchid specimens and European artwork.

With plans to continue historic preservation and the creation of an attractive new open space for public enjoyment to be known as Vizcaya Village, the future beyond 100 is indeed very bright for Vizcaya.

#### EXCITING RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions that the University of Miami researchers are making to America's health care. In becoming one of the leading research universities in the country over the last decade, the University of Miami has developed a pool of world-class talent and advanced infrastructure that is helping lead the science and tech boom that is shaping south Florida's future for the better.

Among the exciting research breakthroughs taking place in Coral Gables is the work of the Lampidis lab at the Miller School of Medicine. This is where Dr. Lampidis and his associates have found that, when given in combination with a common cholesterol medication, nontoxic 2-DG therapy effectively kills tumors without the use of harsh, conventional chemotherapy drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Lampidis and everyone at the University of Miami for their efforts to improve our community, our Nation, and the world.

#### THE PATH FORWARD ON GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I come today to draw attention to the fact that tomorrow evening we are going to be hosting a SpeakOut on the west front of the Capitol, the west lawn, and we are going to be highlighting four pieces of legislation: H.R. 1217, H.R. 1076, H.R. 3051, and H.R. 4603.

I am particularly interested today in H.R. 3051. That is the legislation that seeks to close what has become known as the Charleston loophole. The reason I am particularly interested in it today is because yesterday the General Accountability Office issued a 57-page report. Now, that report is so voluminous