yet, sending them to war with a gun that they didn't know didn't have any bullets in it.

It is really criminal that my friends from the other side of the aisle would leave America in the lurch, leaving us only 17 legislative days when we return in 7 weeks to do the work of the people, only 17 days left before the lameduck session. And, really, I believe that this Congress has been operating as a lameduck since it began.

CONGRESS IS SILENT ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this Republican Congress has left this Chamber early without addressing a public health crisis in this country called gun violence.

The Republican Congress may find comfort in remaining silent, in doing the bidding of the gun lobby, in turning its back on the American people. But our inaction disservices our constituents and the tens of thousands of families who have lost their 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 left here early to be silent to engage their communities when they go home. Find the courage to do the right thing and reject the gun lobby's heavy hand.

Let's bring the will of the American people to this body and pass commonsense legislation. Do not be on the wrong side of history. Do not bet against the American people. Stand with us to end this deadly silence.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today, the House adjourns for a 7-week recess, and House Republicans are leaving town for 52 days without any action to address the many issues before our great Nation. Yet, we find ourselves trapped, trapped in congressional inaction, with Speaker RYAN telling the American people: See you in September.

Trapped because Republicans have failed to bring legislation to the House floor that would address our Nation's gun violence epidemic.

Trapped in the height of summer because House Republicans have failed to provide critical resources to respond to the Zika health crisis.

Trapped, and the residents of Flint are still waiting for Congress to do something to help them.

Mr. Speaker, we are trapped with do-nothing Republican leadership. We should not be leaving today for 52 days in the face of so many pressing needs. We should stay here. We should work together. We should move legislation that protects the American people. It is what our constituents expect and, most importantly, they deserve that. We should not be trapped.

IT IS TIME TO PUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE FIRST

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to do their jobs, pass legislation that moves our country forward.

House Democrats have led sit-ins here on the floor. We have led vigils on the floor, and we have demanded action at press conferences right outside the House floor. But despite it all, no real legislation has been passed on the House floor.

Speaker RYAN refuses to do the work that we were all elected to do. Ninety-seven percent of Americans have spoken. They want gun reform, not a 6-week vacation for their Representatives.

For 52 days, the Republican-led Congress has done nothing. Instead of passing commonsense legislation for gun reform, House Republicans are going on summer vacation. Instead of providing adequate funding for the Zika health crisis, House Republicans are going on summer vacation. Instead of addressing the Flint water crisis, House Republicans are going on summer vacation.

It is unacceptable. I am disappointed. It is irresponsible leadership. I call on Speaker RYAN and Congress to come back in session, finally do the work that we were elected to do.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to put the will of the people first.

CONGRESS HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in this wonderful House with so many of my colleagues to speak forcefully to the issue of unfinished business that is continuing to mount.

The silence in the House now will be deafening for 52 days. The paralysis caused in the lives of too many shows a gross sense of insensitivity and disrespect.

We are asking for action on several bills. We don't think that we should leave for these 52 days and, worse yet, close down session days before it was scheduled to close.

We have a Zika virus crisis that is gripping the lives of many, and it is starting to have its presence felt in these United States, issues that will cost us tens of millions of dollars per child because of an inaction to address the Zika virus.

We have a crisis in Flint that has not been responded to, where we have walked away from families and their needs for the given need of drinking water.

I have a bill, the Aqua bill, that we need to address on this House floor. Let's do our business. Let's not walk away from our responsibilities. Let's be sensitive to America. No vacation if we have not done our work.

CRITICAL UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, Congress has earned its longest summer recess in more than 3 decades. I mean, this session we have done so much.

Take, for example, our quick response to the Zika health crisis. Oh, wait, not that one.

Well, what about how Congress provided emergency funding to the people of Flint, Michigan? Oh, wait. Scratch that. Republicans blocked that measure as well.

But at least we were able to pass commonsense gun violence prevention laws that 9 out of 10 Americans favor.

Mr. Speaker, I think I brought the wrong list up here because the GOP majority blocked those bills from coming to the floor as well.

The reality is the Republican majority has done little to nothing to deserve this 7-week recess. Hardworking Americans elected their Members of Congress to do their job on behalf of the American people. It is shameful and embarrassing to leave town with these critical items unfinished.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SETH RICH

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues and lament that we are going home without addressing these very difficult issues.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Omaha community lost a treasured son. I stand before you today to honor the memory of 27-year old Seth Rich. Seth was returning home early Sunday morning when he was the victim of a tragic and senseless shooting just 1 block from his Washington, D.C., home.

Seth had dedicated his all-too-brief career to public service that began in high school and blossomed in college before he set out to change things for the better in our Nation's Capital. While his life was cut short, his legacy and work to expand access to voting for millions of Americans will not be lost.

Seth's family and friends remember a passionate young man out to do good works from whatever platform he was given. A Nebraskan through and through, although he now called D.C. home, Seth could be found cheering on