

the people and by the people. Allow us to vote on meaningful legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act.

RECOGNIZING AN UNSUNG HERO

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an everyday hero from southern Illinois today—U.S. mail carrier Don Fix, who has worked his route in Belleville, Illinois, for over 20 years.

In May, Don felt something was wrong when he noticed mail piled high at a home in Swansea. Don knew both residents were elderly and had difficulty getting around, so he checked around to the back door and called out their names. He heard Mr. David Nelson yell back that he and his wife had fallen. Don immediately called the paramedics, who arrived on the scene and took the couple to the hospital.

I honor Don Fix's quick and caring action as he is more than just a neighborhood mailman. Don delivers more than just the mail to the residents he cares about—he also delivers compassion.

BRING GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION TO HOUSE FLOOR FOR A VOTE

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, in Connecticut, we know all too well the devastation caused by gun violence. We will never stop mourning the lives of the 26 people who were ripped from us by the horrific shootings in Newtown, but just as tragic are the deaths that don't make national headlines.

Mr. Speaker, we have a serious problem with gun violence in this country from which no person, no community is protected. This year alone, in the capital city of Hartford, gun violence has claimed 19 lives. Yet, today, this House is scheduled to adjourn for the next 5 weeks, refusing to bring this urgent public health matter to the House floor, refusing to address gun violence, which is hurting America.

I have joined with colleagues from across the aisle to propose a bipartisan bill to expand background checks to all commercial gun sales—legislation that, if enacted, would have prevented several of the most recent mass shootings.

I urge the leadership of this House to spend August thinking about the 30,000 Americans we lose each year to gun violence and to bring this urgent matter to the full House for a vote when we reconvene in September.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SOLDIER ACT

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

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a simple solution to a straightforward problem.

Eleven years after retiring from the military, one of my constituents received a bill for \$1,500 for an alleged overpayment by the Department of Defense. This is more than a decade later, and the first she is hearing about it is in a letter, demanding payment. Moreover, the servicemember is expected to track down and find whatever receipts or documents may be relevant from 11 years ago.

This isn't an isolated case. This is happening to veterans across this Nation. Often, these bills are the result of DOD accounting or system errors. Certainly, if there were an error, whether it be the fault of the servicemember or of the DOD, steps should be taken to remedy that; but the government should not wait a decade before sending the first letter.

I am introducing a bill today that would place a statute of limitations on DOD's authority to initiate the collection process. This does not prevent the DOD from collecting debts; it simply says it must do it in a timely fashion. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the SOLDIER Act.

BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO GROW U.S. ECONOMY

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, when we return from our recess, we need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. Ex-Im has helped Nebraska businesses grow and export U.S.-made products overseas. In fact, last year, my district exported over \$60 million of Nebraska manufactured goods all over the world. Growing U.S. exports mean growing jobs at home.

Secondly, we need to come together and pass a long-term transportation bill. According to a recent report, nearly a quarter of Nebraska's bridges are structurally unsound. Beyond safety, investments in infrastructure can create immediate jobs and long-term economic growth.

Lastly, we need to pass a responsible, comprehensive immigration reform bill. This would pull hard-working people out of the shadows, work to attract the best, talented people across the globe, and make our businesses more competitive in the world economy.

Upon our return, Mr. Speaker, let's commit ourselves to bipartisan solutions to these issues.

DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I stand here profoundly disappointed that the House will leave town today without taking a vote on my legislation to defund Planned Parenthood.

Over the past 2 weeks, we have all seen the gruesome videos showing the heartless depravity of this organization. We have issued statements; we have made passionate floor speeches; and we have pledged action. Now our constituents would like to know when we are going to follow through on that promise.

Today, I am reminded of the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral obligation to defund Planned Parenthood, and we must do it now—not when politicians and pundits think it is most politically expedient.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Our Nation took an important step forward 50 years ago when, on August 6, 1965, President Johnson signed into law this landmark legislation. It was a moment that brave men and women, like our colleague JOHN LEWIS, marched for and were willing to die for as they dared to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

Unfortunately, 2 years ago, the Supreme Court struck down section 4, and preclearance and Federal protections for vulnerable communities went away. When the Supreme Court struck down section 4, it did not say that protections were not needed. Rather, it issued a challenge to us here in this House to come up with a modern day formula. I see that as a challenge for all of us in this great House—to come up with a modern day formula to provide protections for vulnerable communities.

On this 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act, let us answer this call to action. It is a call worthy of all of our attention. On this recess, let us remark about how wonderful it was that we all came together on March 7, 1965, in order to do what was right. I ask all of you to please consider restoring the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is important for all Americans.

□ 1230

MOTORCYCLES MEAN FREEDOM

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming Sturgis motorcycle rally, which will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year in Sturgis, South Dakota.

Since the rally's inception in 1938, Sturgis has grown from a single race to