

small business. Congress must do more to protect these vital job creators from excessive taxes and regulations.

I am grateful to the National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, along with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, encouraged by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, led by Ted Pitts, as well as local Chambers of Blythewood, Chapin, Greater Columbia, Greater Irmo, Cayce-West Columbia, Lake Murray, Lexington, Batesburg-Leesville, Greater Aiken, Barnwell, Orangeburg, Midland Valley, and North Augusta, for their support of small business across the Second District of South Carolina.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

VETERANS PROOF OF SERVICE RECORDS SHOULD BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Defense transfers a veteran's service record to the National Archives 62 years after they are discharged from the military.

100,000 archived records per year are requested—to determine eligibility for a medal, to research one's medical history, or to request a change in discharge status.

The Department of Defense provides records to veterans for free, but once the records are sent to the Archives, veterans are charged \$25 to \$75 for a copy of their file.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable that a veteran should have to pay the government for proof of their sacrifice and service. What is more, this fee is levied on veterans who are most likely living on a fixed income.

This fee is unnecessary and inexcusable, and I ask my colleagues to support legislation that I am introducing today to eliminate it.

REMEMBERING EZRA SCHWARTZ

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I rise today to honor and remember 18-year-old Ezra Schwartz, a Massachusetts teenager whose life was tragically taken in Israel last month. Ezra was spending his gap year studying at a yeshiva in Israel and was one of the three people shot and killed last week by a Palestinian terrorist.

The continued violent attacks targeting Israeli civilians are, without qualification or exception, acts of terror and deserve full condemnation. Attacks on innocent civilians, whether they are American, Israeli, or Palestinian, have zero justification, and our

response to such terrorism cannot be silence.

My heart and prayers go out to the friends and family of Ezra, and we honor those whose lives have been lost by such hateful actions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the young life of Ezra Schwartz.

THE RECENT ATTACK IN COLORADO SPRINGS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs became the target of the 351st mass shooting in the United States this year.

Three people were killed: an Iraq war veteran, a mother of two, and a local police officer. They are now among the more than 12,000 Americans who have died in gun-related incidents since the start of the year.

The shooter in Colorado Springs is reported to have used a semiautomatic, AK-47-style firearm, an assault weapon that has its origins in Stalin's Soviet Army.

This firearm and others like it are weapons of war, not tools for self-defense. They serve no purpose other than to kill. And we can no longer permit the proliferation of and easy access to these weapons in the United States.

That is why, in the coming weeks, I will be introducing legislation that reauthorizes the Assault Weapons Ban. During the 10 years this ban was in effect, localities reported as much as a 72-percent decline in gun crimes involving assault weapons.

Today, 59 percent of American voters support a ban on the purchase of semiautomatic and assault weapons. The only thing that stands in the way is Congress' failure to act. The time for action is now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN J. PIAZZA, SR., FOUNDER, ARMED FORCES MILITARY MUSEUM

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a Floridian who has spent the last two decades making sure our veterans and their heroic acts are never forgotten.

I rise today to commend John J. Piazza, Sr., the founder and president of the Armed Forces Military Museum in Largo, Florida.

A veteran himself, Mr. Piazza served from 1955 to 1960 in the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve.

In 1998, he founded the Armed Forces Military Museum, exhibiting a personal collection assembled into a mobile museum, with heavy equipment displayed at schools, community events, and the Florida State Fair.

But, in 2008, he was able to fulfill his dream of opening a permanent home for great military memorabilia, vehicles, and equipment, both his own and those donated by those who have served.

Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. Piazza celebrates his birthday, and I urge my colleagues to not only join me in sending him very best wishes but to thank John for his lifelong dedication to honoring the American heroes who have served our Nation and for helping educate the young men and women who today have the opportunity to learn about valor and sacrifice and our Armed Forces in Largo, Florida.

THE DISPLACED JOBS RELIEF ACT OF 2015

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to support the Displaced Jobs Relief Act of 2015, a bill I introduced yesterday to help small businesses that have been hurt by foreign competition.

As the Inland Empire of California fights back from the Great Recession, we need to make sure that we use every tool available to help our small businesses recover.

Small businesses were dealt heavy blows in the past decade, both from our weakened economy and from our flawed trade agreements. International trade plays an important role in our economy, but history has taught us that not all agreements are fair. Sometimes they take a toll on local businesses that don't have the ability to handle unfair foreign competition.

That is why I introduced this bill. Trade Adjustment Assistance has played a crucial role in retraining and placing Americans in good-paying jobs for generations. If we increase the availability of funds, we can help protect hardworking Americans from losing business to unfair competition overseas.

My bill would increase the authorization for TAA for businesses up to \$50 million for each fiscal year, beginning in 2016 and running through 2021.

Historically, these programs have always authorized \$50 million a year, and, in fiscal year 2011, House Republicans cut the levels to \$16 million, barely 30 percent of what funding was.

This is an important program that can help businesses in the Inland Empire and across the Nation, and I urge my colleagues to support me and the Displaced Jobs Relief Act for 2015 for the sake of American workers and businesses.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIFF AL ST. LAWRENCE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Chatham County Sheriff Al St. Lawrence.