

local businesses in my district recently recognized in Florida Trend magazine.

Local spots all over Florida help boost our economy and strengthen our communities.

Two weeks ago, we celebrated Small Business Saturday and encouraged people to support small, local businesses. It is important we continue to shop small and keep our local communities growing.

Two local establishments in my district recently received Florida Trend's Golden Spoon Awards and rank among the State's best restaurants. I would like to congratulate Dulcet Restaurant and Lounge in New Port Richey and Pearl in the Grove in Dade City.

These awards are very well deserved. I am grateful to have such outstanding businesses in my home district, and I will continue my efforts to help small businesses thrive.

#### PLANNED PARENTHOOD RESOLUTION

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the House Pro-Choice Caucus in strong support of the caucus' resolution condemning violence toward women.

This month, our Nation has seen unspeakable violence, including in a Planned Parenthood health center in Colorado and the awful things that happened in San Bernardino, California. I condemn this violence in the strongest possible way.

We get so used to it, don't we? Eighty-nine Americans are shot to death every day, over 300 mass killings already this year in this country, and we get up on the floor of the House and we go through our piety and we ask for a moment of silence. That is all we can give. We are not going to give any more relief to the people of the United States from gun culture, but take a moment of silence. Those of us who sit in this Chamber who can do something about it steadfastly refuse to do so.

For heaven's sake, many countries in this world don't have 89 killings in a month, much less every day.

No American should feel intimidated or threatened because of choosing to access health care. Violence is unconscionable and we have to stop it.

#### RECOGNIZING EDITH LANIER

(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 recognize Edith Lanier.

Christmas came early this weekend for four disabled veterans. It came in the form of new wheelchairs. These were not just any wheelchairs. These were four custom sport wheelchairs. These more-than-deserving veterans

were given these wheelchairs by Ms. Edith Lanier.

Ms. Lanier was born in 1925. She tells stories about picking cotton, about milking cows, and pumping water from the well. She attended North Georgia College before moving to Savannah to build a business that she passed along to her daughter after 32 years of service.

Over the last two decades, she has also dedicated her time to philanthropy. She is an asset to the community and closes her prayers with: May we be ever mindful of the needs of others.

It comes as no surprise that the four custom sport wheelchairs were donated by Ms. Lanier.

Oh, by the way, did I mention that this young lady this week will be celebrating her 90th birthday? I commend Ms. Lanier for continued acts of selflessness, her devotion to the needy, and her continued hope for the greatness of this country.

Happy birthday, Ms. Lanier.

#### PASS LEGISLATION THAT PROHIBITS PEOPLE ON THE TERRORIST WATCH LIST FROM GETTING A WEAPON

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, since 9/11, 750,000 refugees have been resettled and welcomed into the United States of America. Not one of them has ever appeared on a terrorist watch list or been accused of terrorism. Yet, Republicans say that for homeland security, we should keep these refugees from Syria out of our country.

About 40,000 people in the United States of America are on the terrorist watch list right now and they are not allowed to get on an airplane. But they are allowed to go into any gun store and buy any weapon that they would like, a weapon that looks like this, for example. This is a picture of a Smith & Wesson .223-caliber assault rifle. This is the kind of weapon that the suspects fired in San Bernardino. Sixty-five to 75 rifle rounds were sent, and people are dead.

That was the 355th mass shooting in our country just this year. We need to pass legislation that prohibits people on the terrorist watch list from getting a weapon, and we should do it now. Prayers and thoughts are not enough.

#### CONGRESS WILL ALWAYS PUT THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FIRST

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the very real and dangerous threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

For too long, our Nation has stayed on the sidelines, claiming ISIS was a

junior varsity threat or that it had been contained. The unfortunate reality is that America and her allies are under attack by radical Islamic terrorists. Changing the subject or downplaying this threat gives aid and comfort to our enemy, which is bound and determined to strike innocent people around the world in their comfort zones.

As we have seen in Paris or in San Bernardino, these terrorists are emboldened by the President's failed foreign policy. Weakness invites aggression, and only through strength will we have peace.

This is a time for unity of purpose and strong leadership. We need our Commander in Chief to chart a course towards complete destruction of ISIS. Congress should quickly debate and authorize the resources necessary and military force to complete the mission.

Mr. Speaker, we stand ready and willing to work with the President, but Congress will always put the safety and security of the American people first.

#### VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 158, a bill that would improve the Visa Waiver Program and ensure better information sharing among intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

This is separate from the Republican proposal introduced last week that would have effectively halted refugee resettlement. Refugees already undergo the most stringent screening process of any individual entering the United States, with an extensive series of background checks.

Refugees are victims, not perpetrators of terrorism. Categorically refusing to take them only feeds the narrative of ISIS.

In contrast, H.R. 158 strengthens the screening of travelers who qualify for the Visa Waiver Program by increasing intelligence and law enforcement cooperation and by making it harder for extremists to falsify their identities and enter our borders.

Rather than betraying our timeless American values by scapegoating refugees, which only plays into ISIS' hands, we should focus on addressing real vulnerabilities to our homeland security.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 158.

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#### SUPPORTING THE DENYING FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES TO DANGEROUS TERRORISTS ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, just last week, another community joined the