from treating the epidemic of gun violence like we would any other public health crisis. It is interesting that even the author of this misguided policy 20 years ago now realizes it was a mistake, and he has changed his mind and wants to overturn it.

Just like automobile safety, we can take dozens of small steps to reduce gun violence. Not eliminate it altogether, but we don't stop treating cancer just because some people die; so it is with our commitment to gun safety. If we can stop a few tragic acts, it is worth it to reduce the number of attacks and save lives.

We are poised for one of the most consequential elections in anybody's memory. Let's make it count. We have an opportunity to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the LGBT community. We can join with President Obama and Secretary Clinton for enlightened national leadership, stand with the LBGT community committed to making this tragedy a turning point. This is the year to deliver on full LBGT equality and commonsense gun safety.

ACADEMY APPOINTEES

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize a group of remarkable young people from Pinellas County, Florida, who have excelled among their peers and answered the call to duty to serve their fellow Americans. These young men and women have tested and proven themselves academically, athletically, and physically, and have demonstrated the leadership skills necessary to now be offered appointments to one of our United States Service Academies.

It is an honor to recognize these young men and women from Florida's 13th Congressional District today.

Receiving appointments to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point are:

Elizabeth Brown-Worthington of Gulfport, Florida, a graduate of Boca Ciega High School;

Andrew Buck of Tierra Verde, Florida, a graduate of Saint Petersburg Catholic High School;

Sean McClair of Seminole, Florida, a graduate of Osceola Fundamental High School and the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School;

Tyler Mitchiner of Clearwater, Florida, a graduate of Palm Harbor University and the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School;

William Moorhead of Clearwater, Florida, a graduate of Clearwater Central Catholic High School;

Patrick Prior of Saint Petersburg, Florida, a graduate of Osceola Fundamental High School;

John Rusnak of Seminole, Florida, a graduate of Saint Petersburg Catholic High School.

Receiving appointments from Pinellas County to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis are:

Connor Price of Safety Harbor, Florida, a graduate of Palm Harbor University High School and the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School;

Jared Price of Safety Harbor, Florida, a graduate of Palm Harbor University High School and the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School;

Zack Quilty of Saint Petersburg, Florida, a graduate of Jesuit High School; and

Ethan Singer of Clearwater, Florida, a graduate of Countryside High School.

Receiving appointments to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy from Pinellas County, Florida are:

Brian Brown of Safety Harbor, Florida, a graduate of Countryside High School;

Dalton Collins of Largo, Florida, a graduate of Admiral Farragut Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School;

Joseph Gannaio of Clearwater, Florida, a graduate of Calvary Christian High School;

Thomas ''Trey'' Walker of Saint Petersburg, Florida, a graduate of Saint Petersburg High School.

Receiving appointments to attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy from Pinellas County, Florida, are:

Jackson Misner of Tampa, Florida, a graduate of H.B. Plant High School; and

Sofia Tucker of Navarre, Florida, a graduate of Navarre High School.

Finally, receiving an appointment to attend the U.S. Coast Guard Academy is Olivia Suski of Seminole, Florida, a graduate of Seminole High School and the Marion Military Institute.

These future cadets and midshipmen that we recognize today will be the future leaders of our military forces and our Merchant Marine. I wish them Godspeed in the challenges of their summer training and the academic years to follow.

These young people represent the best of America, and we each look forward to witnessing their future success and their service to country.

We, the House of Representatives, can have great confidence in our Nation's future as we entrust it to these appointees and those of my colleagues here in Congress.

ORLANDO MASSACRE

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, this is what our moments of silence have brought us:

A silent nightclub. The only sound is the frantic ringing of cell phones that would never be answered and silent bodies where there should be life, love, and pride. And, here, a silent Congress.

Mere words cannot express the depth of my rage and grief. Forty-nine lives lost in the middle of Pride Month when they should have been safe and celebrated. Forty-nine families devastated by the loss of their loved ones. Forty-nine phones ringing and ringing and ringing.

There were also frantic texts, like Eddie Justice's final message to his mother: ''Mommy, I love you. He's coming. I'm gonna die.''

If you can hear these words without your heart breaking, if you can think of those little children gunned down in Newtown without breathing, if you can think of empty pews in Charleston without mourning, then truly you have lost your souls.

Hateful people like to compare LBGT equality to the sin-filled Biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, but we here in Congress are the real Sodom and Gomorrah.

Are there not 218 Members here to stand against this bloody tide?

I ask you today: How many lives must be destroyed before Congress acts?

Nine lives? Charleston showed us nine is not enough.

Thirteen lives? Columbine showed us that 13 was not enough.

Certainly, 27 small children killed in their classrooms in Newtown? No, not enough.

The 32 lives lost at Virginia Tech, again, not enough lives. The more than 33,000 Americans killed each year by guns, not enough.

Now 49 people have been mowed down and murdered in Orlando, yet even this historic tragedy, the biggest mass murder since 9/11, hasn't been deemed big enough, horrific enough, or insidious enough to break the weak-kneed, spineless, silent Members of Congress.

Congress is happy to debate for hours about bathrooms, but bring up the gun violence killing of thousands? Absolutely not.

Radical Islam or homegrown American homophobia or a toxic stew of both may have inspired the Orlando shooter. No doubt we will learn about his disgusting motivations in the coming weeks.

But there are simple actions we can take right now, actions that would have reduced the deaths in Orlando as well as in Aurora, Newtown, San Bernardino, and at Umpqua Community College. All these killers use AR–15s. All of them used weapons of mass destruction.

First, let's make sure every gun purchase requires a background check rather than just 60 percent of gun purchases.

Why have we created a separate market for criminals, domestic abusers, and mentally ill?

Let's ban assault weapons that have time and time again caused mass bloodshed. The American people are too familiar with the AR–15, a weapon designed to hunt Americans in their most vulnerable places: the classroom, the movie theater, the nightclub.

Whether the would-be killers are Islamic extremists or American White supremacists or disgruntled coworkers, banning assault weapons would prevent mass bloodshed on the scale we saw

last weekend in Orlando. Motive doesn't matter without the means.

Finally, we must lift the ban on gun violence research. Our best minds should have access to gun violence statistics and be encouraged to study ways to stem the tide of violence. The Second Amendment cannot be abridged by basic scientific studies.

Would these policies stop all gun violence? Of course not.

But I am repulsed by the moments of silence that just are for show. No other industrialized country has such blood-soaked streets. By remaining silent, we are complicit in these crimes.

To the Latino and LGBT communities that are dealing with this unimaginable tragedy, I mourn with you and stand with you against this tide of hatred.

To my colleagues, I plead with you, please, stop the idolatry of weapons of death.

REMEMBERING THOSE LOST IN THE JUNE 11TH SHOOTING IN ORLANDO

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in praying for the victims and the impacted families from Saturday's terrorist attack in Orlando, Florida.

This terrorist attack serves as a reminder that we must do everything possible to defeat those who inspire hate and we must eradicate ISIS before other incidents occur.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 years alone, 73 American lives have been taken by acts of terrorism here at home, in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the first duty of American leadership is the safety of our citizens and our families. When American leadership fails, our citizens pay a heavy price.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FARM CREDIT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the farm credit, which was signed into law through the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916 and was created to be a source of competitive credit for those who live and work in rural America.

Today, the farm credit system plays a vital role in the success of our rural communities throughout our 50 States and in Puerto Rico, providing more than $237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 customers.

Now, while the farm credit system has a national footprint, its leaders are local. There are nearly 75 independently owned and operated farm credit organizations across the Nation, acting as cooperatives, owned by its customers with a deep understanding of agriculture in their area.

Agriculture is the number one industry in Pennsylvania, my home State, and I can tell you that the farm credit system has played a major role in helping farm families survive and thrive through the use of financing, the construction of new buildings, the purchase of land, the pursuit of agribusiness opportunities, and the purchase of new equipment to remain competitive.

The farm credit system has also been vital to helping new farmers in Pennsylvania hit the ground running and to start to grow their new businesses.

Mr. Speaker, American agriculture is responsible for feeding our local communities, our Nation, and the world as a whole. It is my hope that the farm credit system will assist our farms for generations to come.

AL RIDDLEY'S PRAYER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Al Riddley of Springfield, Illinois, who is giving this afternoon's opening prayer.

This tradition of a congressional prayer dates back all the way to the Continental Congress in 1774. It has guided the House of Representatives through trying and through difficult times. That is why I can think of no better person to lead us in prayer this afternoon.

Al has dedicated his life to helping others and improving our communities in Illinois. Throughout his entire professional career, he has extended a helping hand to the most vulnerable, especially our friends and our neighbors in need.

Al serves on the Governor's Commission on the Elimination of Poverty. As the recent past executive director of the Illinois Coalition for Community Services, he has worked to empower volunteers through education and grassroots organizing.

As a minister, Al gives the best sermons I have ever heard. He can move congregations to tears. He can give them a good laugh. And I can guarantee you that if you hear him, there is never a congregation that doesn't walk away feeling inspired to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors.

That is why it makes me proud to say that Al Riddley is going to be giving the opening prayer later this afternoon, and I am honored to have him here with us today.

TRUTH ABOUT THE BABY BODY PARTS INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring attention to the research that the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives is conducting. On April 20 of this year, Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives Chairman MARSHA BLACKBURN held a hearing on the pricing of fetal tissue and found broad consensus among witnesses that Federal law may have been violated when abortion clinics profited from the sale of baby body parts and the privacy of women may have been violated in the process.

Let's take a look at what the panel found. First, and possibly the most shocking, is a Web site where one procurement business, whose name has been redacted, has set up an online order form. From this Web site, a user can select what type of parts they want: baby brains, baby tongue, scalp, reproductive organs. The quantity is then selected of the gestational period chosen. The user even has shipping options.

This is truly appalling. This is online shopping for baby parts, and this procurement business has made it as easy as possible.

□ 1030

But these procurement businesses are not doing this by themselves. They are only the middlemen in a transaction between the supplier—or abortion clinic—and the end user.

As seen on exhibit B2, this procurement business markets itself in its brochure to abortion clinics as a way for the clinics to make additional income by allowing the procurement business technicians to collect tissues and organs from aborted babies immediately after an abortion is completed. The brochure uses the words ''financially profitable,'' ''fiscally rewards,'' and ''financial benefit to your clinic.''

The Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives' investigation revealed that the procurement business technician performs every conceivable task in the harvesting process immediately after an abortion. For this, the procurement business is charged a fee by the clinic, even though the clinics are not incurring any additional costs in the process, thus they are making money off of this horrific act.

It is important to note at this point that the underlying statute allowing for the donation of fetal tissue assumes the tissue would be for transplantations and research and would not be sold. Further, in 1993, former Democrat Congressman Henry Waxman, who wrote the restrictions into law, stated on the House floor: ''This amendment would enact the most important safeguards to prevent any sale of fetal tissue for any purpose, not just the purpose of research.'' He went on and said: ''It would be abhorrent to allow for the sale of fetal tissue and a market to be created for that sale.''

So what have these clinics done? Well, just the opposite, it would seem. This shows an abortion clinic charged the middleman $11,365 for harvested baby parts or what they call POCs, products of conception, and blood. Exhibit D2 shows the abortion clinic charged the middleman again, this