

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on July 7, 2016, my vote on roll call 394 was recorded as "nay" due to an inadvertent error. I intended to vote "yea" on roll call vote 394.

IN OPPOSITION TO RULE ON MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON S. 2943, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 524, COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2016

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Rule for this very important reason.

I oppose the rule because we should instead be devoting our time, attention, and energy to passing legislation to address the epidemic of gun violence and keeps the most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous persons and potential terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, we should instead be debating and voting on "No Fly, No Buy" legislation to keep guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists and H.R. 1217, the "Public Safety & Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2015," sponsored by Congressman PETER KING of New York and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON of California, which expands and strengthens the firearms transfer background check system.

Less than a month ago, on June 12, our nation was horrified and heartbroken by the heinous act of terror and hatred that claimed the lives of 49 innocent persons and wounded many more in Orlando, Florida, the deadliest mass shooting in the history of our country.

Our hearts still grieve over a loss so overwhelming and senseless.

Mass shootings have become too common in our country and we owe it to the victims of gun violence—from Orlando to Charleston to Aurora to Chattanooga to Fort Hood and more—to keep weapons intended for military use out of the hands of persons who would use them to massacre civilians.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics are grim.

In 2015, 13,286 people were killed in the United States by firearms and 26,819 people were injured;

In 2015 there were 372 mass shootings in the United States, including 64 school shootings at elementary and secondary schools;

More than 700 children have lost their lives to gun violence in the first 160 days of 2015;

On average, 7 children and adolescents lose their lives to gun violence each day, 75 percent of which are under the age of 12 years old;

So many people die annually from gun violence in the United States that the death toll between 1968 and 2011 eclipses the total

lives lost in all the armed conflicts in the history of the United States;

Mr. Speaker, let me briefly recount some of the gun violence carnage that claimed the lives of more than 300,000 persons during the period 2005–2015:

1. On June 7, 2015, a gunman shot and killed nine people at the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, one of the oldest and largest black congregations in the South;

2. On November 11, 2009, at Fort Hood, near Killeen, Texas, a gunman shot and killed 13 people, and wounded 30 others;

3. On August 5, 2012 in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, a gunman shot and killed six people, and injured three others, at the Sikh Temple of Oak Creek;

4. On July 7, 2015 in Chattanooga, Tennessee a gunman shot and killed five people, including two U.S. Marines and a Naval Officer, and shot and injured two others at a recruiting center and U.S. Naval Reserve Center;

5. On December 2, 2015 in San Bernardino, California, two gunmen killed 14 people and injured 21 others at the Inland Regional Center;

6. On December 14, 2012, a gunman murdered 26 persons, including 20 children and 6 school administrators and teachers, at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut;

7. On April 16, 2007, a gunman killed 32 persons and injured 17 others at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Virginia; and

8. On August 8, 2015, a gunman brutally murdered his ex-girlfriend and her six children and husband in one of the most notorious cases of domestic violence in the history of Houston, Texas;

Nearly 100 metropolitan areas have experienced mass shootings like these since 2013.

Mass shootings occur more frequently in states that do not require background checks for all gun sales and analyses of mass shootings in the United States between 2009 and 2015 document that the majority of mass shootings occur in venues where the carrying of firearms is not restricted.

In states that require background checks for all handgun sales, including guns offered in unlicensed sales online and at gun shows, there are 52 percent fewer mass shootings.

Congress has observed 25 moments of silence honoring victims of mass shootings since the December 14, 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, but has not enacted or even brought up for debate and vote a single gun violence prevention measure.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 5470, the "Stop Mass Killings by Violent Terrorists Act," which will prohibit a firearms dealer from transferring a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition clips to a purchaser until the Attorney General has verified that the prospective transferee has truthfully answered new questions on the firearms background check questionnaire regarding contacts between the prospective purchaser or transferee and federal law enforcement authorities.

H.R. 5470 complements many of the gun violence prevention and anti-terrorism bills I have introduced in this and previous Congresses, including the "No Fly For Foreign Fighters Act" (H.R. 4240), which passed the House earlier this year and is pending in the Senate.

I am pleased that Republican Senator SUSAN COLLINS, along with her colleagues Senator LINDSAY GRAHAM and others, have introduced bipartisan legislation this week that will ban the sale of guns to anyone who appears on the government's No-Fly list, or the selectee list, a list which includes names of people who require additional security at airports.

Clearly, if you're too dangerous to get on a plane, you're too dangerous to buy a gun.

On average gun violence claims the lives of 90 persons each day. Since 1968, more than a million persons have died at the hand of a gun.

The homicide rate in the United States is about 6.9 times higher than the combined rate in 22 other populous highly-developed countries, despite similar non-lethal crime and violence rates.

Mr. Speaker, we can reduce the incidence of mass shootings like the ones that occurred in San Bernardino, Newtown, and Orlando by making it more difficult for those who would do our people and communities harm to obtain automatic assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines more difficult, or better yet, by banning them altogether.

And a good place to start is for the House to reject this Rule and bring to the floor for debate and vote H.R. 1217, the Public Safety & Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2015," and the bill I have introduced with Congresswoman CORINE BROWN, whose congressional district includes Orlando's Pulse Nightclub, H.R. 5470, the "Stop Mass Killings by Violent Terrorists Act."

TRIBUTE TO THE 2016 PANORAMA
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS GOLF TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Panorama Boys Golf Team for winning for the 2016 Iowa Boys 2A State Golf Tournament.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Team:

Players: Reid Cobb, Aaron Kling, Will Babcock, George Appleseth, Max Monthei and Adam Hackfort Coaches: Hal Rossow and Dave Van Ahn

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young men for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE EXPANSION OF
THE FRESNO COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand opening of the Fresno