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WE NEED TO CLOSE THE LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Our country is grieving. Innocent lives have been lost. Some of those were the brave public servants, public safety servants who were sworn to protect us. Families have been forever changed by the loss of a loved one, and concern and frustration have visited every corner of our country.

As we move forward from last week's tragedies and work together to build a better nation and a brighter future for every citizen, let us remember that, as Members of Congress, each of us has a unique opportunity to effect meaningful change. We have the opportunity to pass legislation that can help put an end to gun violence that claims the lives of more than 30 Americans every day.

We can't continue to stand by and allow this epidemic of gun violence to continue devastating our communities. Whether it is in a movie theater, on a college campus, at an elementary school, in a church, in a nightclub, or on the streets of our cities, far too many innocent lives have been cut short by someone using a gun.

Let me give you some numbers:

3½—the number of years since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School;

34,000-plus—the number of people killed by someone using a gun since Sandy Hook;

1,196—the number of mass shootings in our country since Sandy Hook;

31—the number of moments of silence observed by this House for victims of gun violence since Sandy Hook;

525—the number of days the House has been in session since Sandy Hook; and, most sadly

Zero—that is the number of times we have voted on gun violence prevention legislation on this floor.

Think about that; 34,000 people killed by someone using a gun, and the lives of their loved ones forever changed.

One of the 34,000 people killed by someone using a gun since the tragedy at Sandy Hook was a 10-year-old girl named Samantha. Her mother, Catherine, was brave enough to share her story last week on the steps of our Capitol. Catherine and her 10-year-old daughter were shot by a man who couldn't pass a background check, but because of a glaring loophole, he was able to buy a gun online without having to pass a background check. He used that gun to shoot Catherine and to kill Samantha.

My bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment bill, H.R. 1217, would close this loophole and require a background check for all commercial gun sales, including those online, at gun shows, and through classified ads.

Background checks are our first line of defense when it comes to stopping dangerous people from getting firearms. We know that they work. Every day, 170 felons are stopped from buying a gun because of a background check, and 50 domestic abusers are stopped from buying a gun because of background checks.

Everyone says they want to keep guns away from dangerous people, but the only way to know if someone is dangerous is to conduct a background check. Without background checks, how do you know if a person buying a gun is a criminal or dangerously mentally ill? If the man who killed Catherine's daughter hadn't been able to easily bypass the background check by going online, Catherine's tragic story may have been different. It is long past time for the Republican leadership in this House to give us a vote on H.R. 1217.

Just as important for the safety and security of our country and fellow Americans is H.R. 1076, bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment legislation to prohibit those on the FBI's terrorist watch list from being able to legally purchase firearms.

This debate isn't a choice between respecting the Second Amendment or reducing gun violence; it is about this Congress doing both.

Mr. Speaker, give us a vote.

CONGRESS MUST STEP UP AND DO ITS JOB

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week we all woke up to the horrific news of violence in Baton Rouge, in Falcon Heights, and then the terrible events that unfolded in Dallas, where members of their police department were gunned down protecting individuals who were actually standing up to protest. The police officers stood between them and a dangerous person with a dangerous weapon, and many—five members—lost their lives.

This week we mark 1 month since the worst mass shooting in the history of our country. An act of hate, an act of terror that ended 49 lives. That is 49 friends, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, and daughters. They left behind communities of people who will never be the same without them.

One of those 49 was Tevin Crosby of Saginaw, Michigan, in my district. Tevin was just 25 years old. He was on a trip visiting family in North Carolina and then went to Florida to see some friends and colleagues. He was a young businessowner, a rising star, according to his friends. An employee at his company told the Saginaw News that Tevin was always smiling, always positive.

This pattern of violence can't be ignored. It demands change. We are better than this. We can do better than this. In this body, in this House of Representatives, we must do better. No one

piece of legislation would prevent every shooting, but if it could prevent one, we should act.

Three weeks ago, I joined my colleagues on the floor of this House as we sat down to stand up and say that we had had enough. We demanded, and continue to demand, a vote on commonsense legislation to prevent gun violence.

When the majority adjourned in the middle of the night and went home, we didn't stop. We took our message to every corner of the country. At home in Michigan, I joined with my congressional delegation, my Democratic colleagues, to meet with our constituents and talk with them about what more we can do in Washington to prevent gun violence.

I heard Michiganders talk about what that sort of violence means in their own neighborhoods. Gun violence happens in mass shootings like we saw in Orlando, but it also occurs every single day across our country. In cities like my hometown of Flint, we see gun violence every single week on our streets, in our neighborhoods.

It is our duty in Congress to keep Americans safe and to work toward decreasing gun violence back home. Our constituents are literally dying because it is too easy for dangerous people to get their hands on a gun, and we have a moral responsibility to act.

I have been inspired by the people back in Michigan. I met with moms and dads, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, faith leaders, elected officials, law enforcement officials, and community activists. They have all come together, joined their voices, calling for a vote on commonsense legislation to prevent gun violence.

When we go home, people are asking: Why aren't you voting to make sure suspected terrorists and dangerous criminals can't buy a gun? Well, the reason is simple. It is because the Republican majority is held captive by the gun lobby. It is that simple. The fact that they are petrified of a single organization keeps them from acting. We are sick of it, and we are not going to stand for it.

What we are asking for, what we are demanding, is a vote on just two commonsense pieces of legislation that have the support of more than 80 percent of Americans. People in Michigan have made it clear they want Congress to act, and I am sure this is true all across the country: act to prevent suspected terrorists from buying deadly weapons; act to make sure that, if a person purchases a gun, they should have to go through a background check no matter how they purchase that weapon.

We can't just express our grief on the floor of this House and then not act on real, meaningful action to prevent gun violence. We must step up as a Congress and do our job and pass strong, smart legislation that will keep our country safe.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PITTENGER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As our Nation continues to mourn the deaths of the past days, send Your spirit of consolation upon us.

Bless the Members of this people's House with wisdom and the courage to address the pressing difficulties of our time. As they continue the work of this assembly, guide them to grow in understanding in attaining solutions to our Nation's needs.

Continue to bless those, as well, charged with protecting and serving our country. They, too, need wisdom and insight into the pressure points of insecurity among our citizens. Lord, have mercy.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE WALKING VETERAN

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I had the pleasure of meeting Thomas Wayne Hudson. Known on Facebook as The Walking Veteran, Mr. Hudson is walking across the country to raise awareness for the issues facing

veterans as they transition from military life to civilian status.

Mr. Hudson, who is a disabled veteran, started his journey in Las Vegas on May 2, and plans to finish on Veterans Day here in the Nation's Capital.

While walking with him, I quickly became inspired by his dedication to his fellow veterans. Despite returning to civilian life, Mr. Hudson has dedicated his time, energy, and resources to help fellow veterans, and his mission is a testament to the never-ending spirit and selflessness of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Hudson told me that a big part of the reason for the walk is to catch the attention of our Nation's elected officials. The Walking Veteran deserves our attention and support, and I am pleased to share his story with my colleagues in the House. I encourage all to follow Mr. Hudson's journey.

CONGRESS MUST ACT

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in demanding votes on two commonsense, bipartisan pieces of legislation that are overwhelmingly supported by the American people.

First, without a completed background check, we cannot identify criminals, domestic abusers, and other individuals too dangerous to own a gun. Right now, Federal law only requires criminal background checks at federally licensed gun dealers. Criminals can bypass the background check system altogether by going online or to a gun show. H.R. 1217, the bipartisan King-Thompson bill, closes this loophole, requiring background checks for all commercial gun sales regardless of where the sale is made.

Second, if you are too dangerous to fly, you are too dangerous to buy a gun in America. When it is easier for a suspected terrorist to buy a gun than board a plane, something is wrong. H.R. 1076, the bipartisan no fly, no buy legislation, authored in part by Congressman PETER KING, would prevent suspected terrorists from purchasing guns.

Congress must act on these very simple, straightforward, bipartisan bills.

REMEMBERING MARIAN BERGESON

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday, Marian Bergeson passed away at the age of 90.

Marian was a true pioneer. She was the first woman to serve in both the California State Assembly and State Senate, and she paved the way for so many women in California to pursue public service. Marian herself was a tireless public servant who advocated

for education, small business, and transportation.

My friend State Senator Pat Bates summed it up when she said: "Few people have influenced Orange County and California politics more effectively than Marian did."

Marian also had a real zest for life. She celebrated her 90th birthday by jumping out of an airplane for the sixth time.

The entire Orange County community joins her husband, Garth, and their three children in mourning, but I hope they will find comfort in knowing her legacy will live on for years to come.

AN URGENT REQUEST FOR THE LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I didn't come to the floor with prepared remarks today. I just came with a very urgent request.

I ask that the Republican leadership hold a vote on our commonsense, bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment background check legislation and no fly, no buy legislation. Ninety percent of the American people support it. It is pro-Second Amendment. It is bipartisan. The background check now has 187 co-authors. But more important, most important, it works.

Every day, 170 felons are stopped from buying firearms because of the background check. You don't know if a person who is trying to buy a firearm is a criminal, a domestic abuser, or is dangerously mentally ill unless you do a background check.

Please, Mr. Speaker, please Republican leadership, bring these two bills to the floor. Criminals, domestic abusers, potential terrorists, and the dangerously mentally ill should not be able to legally and easily purchase firearms.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE CARL ROGERS ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to rise and to make notice of Representative Carl Rogers, State representative from Georgia, who is ending his 22-year career in the State legislature. I want to congratulate him on his retirement. He has served the Gainesville, Hall County area for 22 years. He has served under four Governors, including the last being under his friend, Governor Nathan Deal.

Carl was the epitome of a citizen legislator. He knew his people, and he knew what was best; and sometimes,